



**Speech Therapy and Autism**

Speech Language Pathologists (also known as Speech Therapists) can play a major role in helping a child with autism learn to communicate and engage with other people. Depending on your child's functional level, the therapist may work on verbal communication, non-verbal communication, and play skills.

It's important to note that while speech therapy is important for children with autism, it can also be extremely beneficial for children with other communication disorders and delays including Down syndrome, speech sound disorders, executive function disorders, learning disabilities, stuttering and social language difficulties.

**Speech Therapy Services Address:**

- **Articulation (speech)** – the way we say our speech sounds
- **Receptive Language** – difficulty understanding language
- **Expressive Language** – difficulty using language
- **Fluency** - stuttering
- **Pragmatic Language (social skills)** – the way we speak and interact with others in social situations, understanding verbal and non-verbal cues, etc.
- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)** – use of pictures, letters, gestures, symbols, tablets and other devices to communicate
- **Reading, Writing and Literacy** – reading comprehension, phonological awareness, sentence formulation, written language organization, etc.



*developmental milestones?*

**QUICK CHECKLIST**

Children with ASD often have problems with social, emotional, and communication skills. Signs of ASD begin during early childhood and typically last throughout a person's life. Children with ASD might show these "red flags":

- Not point at objects to show interest (for example, not point at an airplane flying over) not look at objects when another person points at them
- Have trouble relating to others or not have an interest in other people at all
- Avoid eye contact
- Prefer not to be held or cuddled, or might cuddle only when they want to appear to be unaware when people talk to them, but respond to other sounds
- Repeat or echo words or phrases said to them
- Have trouble expressing their needs using typical words or motions
- Not play "pretend" games (for example, not pretend to "feed" a doll)
- Repeat actions over and over again
- Have unusual reactions to the way things smell, taste, look, feel, or sound
- Lose skills they once had (for example, stop saying words they were once using)

**DON'T Miss a Step**

*Track Your Child's Developmental Milestones*

The Scott Center for Autism Treatment is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit facility on the campus of the Florida Institute of Technology. The Scott Center has a three-fold mission to provide autism treatment, research and training.

For further information, please visit [screenokids.org](http://screenokids.org).

**TELEHEALTH SERVICES**

Florida Tech and The Scott Center are uniquely well positioned to combine technological expertise with evidenced-based ABA services in this rapidly emerging era of digital healthcare.

Telehealth is the use of technology and the internet to access healthcare services remotely. The Scott Center clinicians provide the individuals we treat online with comprehensive, multidisciplinary diagnostic and intervention services. Available services include diagnostic assessment, functional assessment, intervention, parent training, and psychological services.

The program helps families who do not have specialists in their area, have long commutes, or limited appointment availability due to caregiver work schedules.

**GOALS OF THE TELEHEALTH PROGRAM:**

- ▶ Increasing access to services for people with limited time or mobility
- ▶ Improving timeliness from diagnosis to treatment
- ▶ Developing new evidenced-based ABA telehealth protocols
- ▶ Supporting therapists with telehealth tools and education
- ▶ Educating the next generation of treatment professionals in telehealth practices



**COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Inspiring and educating communities to create a supportive climate for individuals with autism, related disabilities, and their families is integral to The Scott Center's mission.

**OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

- ▶ Providing community education programs
- ▶ Partnering with advocacy organizations
- ▶ Cooperating with public healthcare agencies
- ▶ Training first responders on autism interaction techniques
- ▶ Collaborating with fundraising partners

**WE ARE AN ONLINE FAMILY!**

- ▶ Autism education: The Scott Center provides the latest protocols and tools for professionals
- ▶ The Autism Pediatric Initiative: The Scott Center provides the latest protocols and tools for professionals

**SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPY FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS**

## FLORIDA TECH

**Role:** Project Management, Copywriting, Website, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Direct Mail & Email Campaigns

**Duration:** Jan 2017 - March 2020

**KPIs:** Increased social engagement, Created sustainable direct email program, Increased followers