# Job Title: Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist

### **Reports To: Clinical Supervisor, Director of Pediatric Therapy**

### Employment Type: Full-time/Part-time, flexible shifts, occasional weekends

### To Apply: <u>Click Here</u>

#### **Overview:**

Superstars is seeking a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) to provide comprehensive evaluation and treatment services to children with speech, language, and communication disorders. The SLP will design individualized therapy programs that enhance children's communication skills, social interactions, and overall quality of life through engaging and evidence-based practices. The Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) specializes in assessing, diagnosing, and treating speech, language, feeding, and communication disorders in children. In this role, the SLP will design individualized treatment plans tailored to each child's needs, incorporating both communication and feeding therapy as necessary. This position emphasizes a familycentered approach, grounded in evidence-based practices and conducted within the guidelines of HIPAA, federal regulations, and Georgia state standards.

This role offers flexible scheduling, with morning, afternoon, and weekend shifts to accommodate family needs.

#### **Key Responsibilities**

# **Diagnostic Evaluation and Treatment Planning**

- Assessments: The SLP conducts evaluations to determine a child's baseline in speech, language, and feeding skills, identifying any delays or disorders. Tools may include standardized tests, observational assessments, and caregiver interviews.
- Treatment Planning: Based on assessment results, SLPs create detailed Individualized Treatment Plans (ITPs) with goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART). This plan includes therapy goals across various domains, such as expressive/receptive language, social interaction, and feeding.
- **Communication with Families and Care Teams:** SLPs provide caregivers with information on their child's diagnosis, development, and recommended goals, and involve them actively in treatment planning. They also collaborate with an interdisciplinary team (e.g., occupational therapists, psychologists) to support the child's overall development.

### Therapy and Intervention

- **Speech and Language Therapy:** Interventions should focus on improving articulation, language comprehension, and communication skills, including social skills and alternative communication systems. For example, if a child struggles with expressive language, the SLP should use play-based language modeling to encourage verbal expression.
- Feeding Therapy: This specialized area where SLPs are expected to work with children who experience feeding difficulties. Techniques may address food aversion, oral-motor skills, and swallowing. Therapy shall include sensory-based approaches, oral desensitization exercises, and structured exposure to various textures.
- **Therapeutic Activities:** SLPs should incorporate engaging, developmentally appropriate activities to sustain attention and make therapy enjoyable. Therapy plans should be tailored to each child's interests and developmental level, making the sessions both effective and engaging.

### Family and Caregiver Education

- **Training for Families:** SLPs will offer parents strategies for reinforcing therapy goals at home, empowering them to support their child's progress outside of sessions. Techniques shall include modeling language at home, practicing social interactions, or incorporating feeding techniques during family meals.
- **Progress Updates and Collaboration:** Regular communication about the child's progress and any adjustments to therapy plans are vital for caregiver involvement. SLPs will provide insights into how the family can help meet milestones and often conduct periodic check-ins to keep the family involved.
- Home Program: SLPs should provide handouts or practical tools, such as visual schedules for non-verbal children or guidelines for oral exercises in feeding therapy, to reinforce therapy at home.

# **Documentation and Record-Keeping**

- **HIPAA Compliance:** SLPs must adhere to federal regulations, maintaining confidentiality for all client records and communications.
- **Progress Monitoring:** Accurate and timely documentation of each session, including assessment results, goals, progress notes, and therapy adjustments, is crucial for regulatory compliance, insurance billing, and treatment planning.
- Data Collection: Detailed records help track a child's progress and document outcomes, which can be shared with insurance companies or educational

institutions. Proper documentation also supports consistency in therapy, especially when working with an interdisciplinary team.

# **Collaboration and Professional Development**

- Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Effective collaboration among occupational therapists, physical therapists, dietitians, and educational staff is crucial for creating a holistic treatment approach. For instance, an OT might work alongside an SLP to support both fine motor and feeding skills.
- **Ongoing Education:** Continuing education enables SLPs to stay current with evidence-based practices, enhancing their expertise in fields like augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) or specialized feeding interventions for medically complex children.
- Family Conferences and Review Meetings: Regular team meetings with other specialists and family members allow the SLP to coordinate care effectively, addressing the child's needs across all areas of development.

# Work Schedule and Flexibility

- Flexible Shifts and Schedule: SLPs often work within traditional business hours but may also offer sessions in the evenings or weekends to accommodate family schedules.
- **Breaks and Rest Periods:** Scheduled rest and lunch breaks comply with Georgia's labor guidelines to ensure the well-being of employees, especially when working extended shifts.
- **Optional Weekend Shifts:** Occasional weekend availability allows SLPs to reach more families who may not be able to attend weekday sessions, providing greater accessibility for working parents.

# Qualifications

- Education Requirements: A Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from an accredited institution is the standard requirement, covering the clinical competencies needed for pediatric therapy.
- Licensure and Certification: In Georgia, SLPs must be licensed by the state's Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Many employers prefer or require certification from ASHA, such as the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC-SLP).
- Clinical Experience and Skills: Prior experience with pediatric clients and familiarity with feeding therapy, augmentative communication, and other specific areas are highly beneficial. Pediatric SLPs should also be skilled in

behavior management, as many young clients may need help regulating attention and emotions during therapy.

# Additional Skills and Traits

- **Empathy and Patience:** SLPs work with young clients who may struggle with frustration and communication difficulties, requiring a high degree of empathy, patience, and a child-centered approach.
- **Communication Skills:** Strong interpersonal skills are essential for explaining complex medical concepts to parents and collaborating with other professionals.
- **Organizational Skills:** SLPs must be highly organized to manage paperwork, track patient progress, and ensure that therapy goals are met.