I Screen, You Screen, We All Screen For... What?
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When a teacher or parent has concerns about a student's speech or language abilities, he/she can refer the student to a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) who will first screen the child. A speech and/or language screening is a quick check to see if a student's skills might be delayed and require further in-depth evaluation. Screenings performed by an SLP often include:

- **Speech (articulation and phonology)** – A speech screening might reveal if a student has difficulty producing specific sounds (articulation) or uses inappropriate sound patterns (phonology).
- **Language (receptive and expressive)** – A language screening can uncover delays in what a student is able to hear and understand (receptive language) and how well a student is able to communicate his/her wants and needs (expressive language).
- **Voice** – A voice screening allows an SLP to judge whether or not the student's vocal quality (pitch, hoarseness, loudness, etc.) is age and gender appropriate.
- **Fluency** – A fluency screening might show that a student has disruptions in speech (disfluencies/stuttering) that are not typical of his/her same-age peers.
- **Hearing** – A hearing screening can determine if a student has a hearing loss which can impact his/her speech and/or language abilities.

### Screening vs. Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Screening</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screenings take less time than evaluations. (A typical screening lasts approximately 15-20 minutes.)</td>
<td>Evaluations take more time than screenings. (Evaluations usually take over an hour.)</td>
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<td>Often, students' skills are assessed informally through conversation or play-based tasks.</td>
<td>Students' skills are formally assessed using structured tests and assessments.</td>
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<td>Standard Scores are NOT obtained. The result of a screening is typically reported as “Pass” or “Fail.”</td>
<td>Standard Scores ARE obtained. (Standard Scores are used to compare a student's performance to his/her same-age peers.)</td>
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<td>Results are used to determine whether or not an evaluation is needed and the areas that need to be addressed in an evaluation.</td>
<td>Results are used to determine if intervention is needed and the goals that should be addressed during the intervention.</td>
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After the Screening

After the screening is complete, the SLP makes recommendations. If a student “fails” a screening, the SLP will recommend that the student receive a full evaluation. The results of the screening help an SLP determine which areas of speech/language to formally assess. Even if a student “passes” the speech/language screening, the SLP may make additional referrals to other disciplines (such as an occupational therapist, reading specialist, etc.). Additionally, if a student “passes” a screening, the SLP may recommend no further action, or may request a follow-up screening in a few months.

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Item #BKR-2350B

Token Tower
Item #CHIPS-22

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