

Research Assessment #1

Date: September 4, 2020

Subject: Pediatric Speech Pathology

MLA Citation:

Professions, School of Health. "What Is Speech Language Pathology?" *What Is Speech-Language Pathology?: TTUHSC Daily Dose*, Ttuhsc, 2019, dailydose.ttuhsc.edu/2019/november/what-is-speech-language-pathology.aspx.

Assessment:

Choosing a career that drew in my interest was quite frankly easy, but one that I had a decent amount of background knowledge of, not so much. That being said, I am fascinated to be studying Pediatric Speech Pathology as I can grow from the ground up and start with a blank slate. I am eager to learn what it takes to be successful in this career, as well as how I can help others in this unique way. After doing some research and analyzing the article, "What is Speech Language Pathology" by School of Health Professions, I have a better understanding of the problems one in this profession may encounter, what may and may not be treated, important qualities of professionals in this field, as well as some things it takes to get there.

Something interesting I have learned about Speech Language Pathology is that it is commonly an appealing career to those who decide against medical school, as well as those who are interested in becoming a therapist in interest of helping others. This was beneficial for me to realize, as this is why I was drawn to this career, so it is evident that I am likely to have coworkers common interests. I wonder how I can use that knowledge to provide conversation, learn from coworkers or others in this field, or even during my ISM journey, to communicate with professionals. Where I contrast with what seems to be the "norm", is that I have read that many who are interested in this career have background knowledge from knowing a professional in this field, or have been treated by a speech therapist prior. This is motivating to me as I do not want to be behind, so I plan to take some steps in providing myself some background knowledge before my first interview. These preparatory tasks will provide me contentment when speaking with professionals and help me develop more detailed questions, to then learn from.

From reading this article and many others, I have concluded that there is quite a variety of patients that professionals experience. This is valuable to me as I now know I

need to supply myself the knowledge necessary to expect the unexpected, this has me interested in what, specifically I can do to prepare for what it is possible I encounter. I had previously anticipated simplicity, that speech pathologists provide solely treatment to those born with speech delays, impediments and things that are commonly heard of. But from what I have researched so far, I have gathered that this is not the case and the patients have quite a variety of complications. Some ideas I have read that I am excited to learn more about as I was previously unaware of, are correcting swallowing, communication and feeding. These unexpected things are some of the first things I plan to research further and ask my mentor about, as they have me curious.

Regardless of what I did not or still do not know about Speech Pathology, I understand that relationships with coworkers and patients are vital to the success of any career. I am studying pediatric and with that being said, in my opinion, makes relationships even more critical to grow upon. Many people seem to go to their job and just get the job done, but I do not agree that is the correct way, I believe loving what I do will cause me to be the most successful and this starts with making positive connections with those I surround myself with. This has been very evident to me from what I have experienced from working with young kids, at Eagle Gymnastics Academy. I have noticed that it is very common that the amount a child seems to like my instruction, varies directly with the amount I assume they like me. Children are seemingly easy to please in some environments and I plan to continue to learn how to further this, so that whether I am coaching kids, or helping them speak, they are having fun. As I read in the article, it is a part of the profession to teach young kids to make eye contact. I believe that maintaining a good relationship with the client can make this easier as it provides comfort to the patient. Balancing a friendly and efficient style of working will provide effective treatment, as well as a good experience for not only me but the client as well.

With the understanding that I have limited knowledge of Pediatric Speech Language Pathology right now, I look forward to finding a mentor who can lead me in the right direction. I know there is much more to learn beyond what I have mentioned, and I plan to challenge myself to reach my overall life goal, leaving a positive impact on as many as manageable. I will do whatever it takes to learn enough to not only know the information myself, but hopefully one day express it to others as others have done for me.