

# WHAT ARE SPEECH/LANGUAGE SERVICES?

At Confluence Academies, children with difficulties or disabilities that affect their ability to communicate may be provided speech and/or language therapy if those difficulties or disabilities are negatively impacting their academic achievement. These services will be provided by a speech/language therapist, also called a speech-language pathologist, or SLP, who plans and conducts individualized therapy activities to keep the child engaged and motivated while working toward their speech and/or language goals.

- *Speech therapy* targets the way that we move our mouth to make sounds in words.

The SLP will show the child how to make certain sounds or sound groups that they have trouble producing as well as provide the child with ways to remember the right way to say the sounds. Speech therapy could also target fluency (for a child who stutters, for example) or even voice (for a child with abnormal pitch, volume, or tone of voice).

- *Language therapy* targets the way we use our voices and our bodies to communicate a message as well as how we understand the messages of others. Language therapy involves the SLP playing and talking with the child, using pictures, books, objects, or events to stimulate language development. The SLP also models the child's language targets and gives them strategies to use to more effectively communicate to others or understand the message others communicate to them.