

What medical conditions may warrant an evaluation?

- ✓ **Stroke**
- ✓ **Dementia**
- ✓ **Mild Cognitive Impairment**
- ✓ **Brain Tumor**
- ✓ **Alzheimer's Disease**
- ✓ **Huntington's Disease**
- ✓ **Parkinson's Disease**
- ✓ **Traumatic Brain Injury**
- ✓ **Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS)**
- ✓ **Multiple Sclerosis (MS)**
- ✓ **Myasthenia Gravis**
- ✓ **Cleft Palate**
- ✓ **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)**
- ✓ **Sensory Processing Disorder**
- ✓ **COPD**
- ✓ **GERD**
- ✓ **Esophageal Stricture**
- ✓ **Encephalopathy**
- ✓ **Vocal Cord Dysfunction**
- ✓ **Pediatric Speech/Language Delays**

MEET OUR CERTIFIED SPEECH THERAPISTS



Betsy Snell, SLP

Betsy is an Ellinwood, KS native. She graduated with a Master of Arts in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Kansas Medical Center and has been with Clara Barton since 2021. Betsy enjoys traveling, baking, reading, and exploring new places to eat. As a Speech Therapist, she loves having the opportunity to help others regain or learn abilities related to the most essential parts of their lives, like talking, eating, drinking, and swallowing. Betsy also specializes in pediatric and adult neuro-rehabilitation.



Halle Knigge, SLP

Halle grew up in Fairbury, NE. She graduated with a Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology from Fort Hays State University in 2022 and has been with Clara Barton ever since. Halle enjoys cooking, baking, exercising, and spending time with her family and friends. As a Speech Therapist, she loves seeing hope in the eye of a patient when they start making progress. Her goal is to specialize more in swallowing disorders and she's certified in LSVT (Lee Silverman Voice Treatment), an effective voice treatment approach specifically for persons with Parkinson's Disease.

**Contact us for more information,
or to schedule a FREE
15 minute consultation!**



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Speech & Language **THERAPY**



WHAT IS SPEECH THERAPY?

Speech language pathologists (SLPs) work to prevent, assess, diagnose, and treat speech, language, social communication, cognitive-communication, and swallowing disorders in children and adults.

AREAS OF FOCUS

- 1 **Speech** - Problems saying words clearly or smoothly, making it difficult to be understood
- 2 **Language** - Trouble with expression, understanding others, and reading or writing
- 3 **Cognition** - Difficulties with attention, memory, problem solving, organization, and judgment
- 4 **Voice** - Hoarseness, breathiness, pain, frequent coughing when speaking
- 5 **Argumentative/Alternative Communication** - Communication methods such as gesturing, using pictures boards, or speech generating devices
- 6 **Feeding and Swallowing** - Coughing or gagging during meals, mouth leakage, or food getting stuck in mouth or throat

What methods are used to treat speech & language issues?

We use a variety of research-based methods and principles of neuroplasticity to help patients achieve functional speech and language. We might implement computer programs or mobile therapy apps. When needed, we provide training for the patient and family members or friends to use compensatory strategies to effectively communicate. Every patient receives a home exercise program to continue building on the skills addressed in speech therapy.

How can speech therapy benefit you after an injury?

Brain damage caused by a stroke or other traumatic neurological event often leads to a variety of disabilities including problems with reading, writing, memory, attention, swallowing and vocal cord function - all of which are commonly treated by speech therapists.

When should I get treatment?

Research suggests that the sooner you get therapy, the better the outcome. If you or a family member have noticed difficulties in the areas of speech-language pathology, we recommend contacting a speech therapist or notifying your primary care provider.

How can I get started?

Contact your primary care provider, or call our office to get an order for therapy services or schedule a free 15 minute consultation. Our insurance and billing specialists complete a prior authorization before getting you scheduled.

VIDEO SWALLOW STUDIES

A modified barium swallow study, also known as a video swallow study, is an X-ray examination performed in the hospital's radiology suite that helps determine how well you chew and swallow. The study takes about 10 minutes to complete and is one of the best ways to determine if a patient has a swallow disorder. During the study, the speech therapist, radiologist, and a radiologic technician are all present.



During this examination the therapist will ask you to consume food and drinks of various textures, all of which are coated in barium. The barium, a chalky substance with no distinct taste, appears on the X-ray and makes it possible to see exactly where the food and liquids travel in your mouth and throat. The speech therapist can make recommendations related to diet modifications and strategies to help you safely swallow foods and drinks.