

## Episode 58: A Day in the Life of a Medical SLP: Conversation with a Pediatric SLP

Meet Lauren Pontoppidan, a pediatric medical SLP who works within the school system and in the hospital setting. She tells us how she discovered speech pathology, walks us through a typical work day, explains what it's like working with children with severe medical conditions, and offers advice on how newer SLPs can break into the field.

### Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. Tell us a little bit about why you became a speech pathologist. How long have you been an SLP?
2. Did you always want to be a medical SLP, and did you always have an interest in working with children?
3. Tell us how your typical day works out. When do you start? When do you end? Do you get a lunch break?
4. What do you do if you do start getting burned out? Any words of advice there?
5. What is one of the favorite things that you do working in the school system? What about in the hospital?
6. Was it scary starting to work with NICU babies? How did you build your confidence in that?
7. What are some of the resources you recommend for students or SLPs just starting out?
8. What words of advice do you have for the new or fresh SLP who is an inner clinical fellow and wants to move into a career like you have?

### Quote of the Conversation

***"Be confident in yourself. You've gone to graduate school. You have a Master's degree. You're a smart, capable person. So, I think a lot of people come out really scared. And it's good to know your limitations and know what you need more help in, but also know that you know things."***

-Lauren Pontoppidan, MA, CCC-SLP

### Lauren Pontoppidan, MA, CCC-SLP

*Medical Speech-Language  
Pathologist*



Lauren Pontoppidan is a pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist practicing in New Orleans, Louisiana. She earned her Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of Memphis in 2013 and completed an Advanced Certification in Pediatric Dysphagia from New York Medical College in 2020. Additionally, Lauren is a Level 2

SOS provider and SOFFI certified.

Lauren works for Jefferson Parish Public School System, where she specializes in treating children with severe communication disorders and is a member of the AAC team. She also works for Children's Hospital New Orleans and is an independent contractor for Early Steps, where she specializes in infant and pediatric dysphagia and feeding disorders.

Lauren resides in New Orleans with her fiancé (Norwood), Labrador (Magnolia), dachshund (Mona), cats (Graycie and Baloo), and horse (Bailey). When she is not working, Lauren is busy planning her May 2021 wedding. She also enjoys cooking, gardening, Orange Theory fitness, and horseback riding

## Keep the Conversation Going

**Lauren Pontoppidan, MA, CCC-SLP**

Contact Lauren Pontoppidan

Email: [LPontoppidan24@gmail.com](mailto:LPontoppidan24@gmail.com)

### Resources

[www.sosapproachtofeeding.com](http://www.sosapproachtofeeding.com)

[www.feedingfundamentals.com](http://www.feedingfundamentals.com)

*"When you're the speech therapist, people like to talk to you. And they like to tell you their life stories, and they tell you their secrets. And they depend on you, and they share stuff with you. And that is really fun. I love learning about people's lives. And they're so fascinating."*

Thank you for listening to *The Missing Link for SLPs* podcast! **If you enjoyed the show, I'd love you to subscribe, rate it and leave a short review.** Also, please share an episode with a friend. Together we can raise awareness and help more SLPs find and connect those missing links to help them feel confident in their patient care every step of the way.

**Follow me on Instagram, join the Fresh SLP community on Facebook** or learn more at [FreshSLP.com](http://FreshSLP.com). Let's make those connections. You got this!

*Do you have a question you'd like answered on the show?*

*Interested in sharing your experience as an SLP with our audience?*

*Send a message to [Mattie@FreshSLP.com](mailto:Mattie@FreshSLP.com)!*

*Not a substitute for a formal SLP education or medical advice for patients/caregivers*