

Common Speech and Language Skill Concerns

Disorder	Brief Description	Common Caregiver Concern Examples
Articulation/Speech Sound Disorder	A child who does not say sounds by the expected age may have a speech sound disorder.	<p>“My child’s pronunciation of words is poor”</p> <p>“I can understand my child, but many other people have trouble understanding him/her.”</p>
Autism Spectrum Disorder	Every autistic person is different. A person on the spectrum may have difficulty with communication and social skills but not in the same way or degree as the next autistic individual. Typically, a neurologist or psychologist diagnoses ASD in children.	<p>“My child prefers to play on her/his own with the same toys”.</p> <p>“My child has trouble with eye contact.”</p> <p>“My child plays with toys in a repetitive manner.”</p>
Childhood Apraxia of Speech	Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS) is a motor speech disorder that makes it difficult for children to speak. Children with this diagnosis typically have a good understanding of language and know what they want to say. However, they have difficulty learning or carrying out the complex oral movements needed to create sounds into syllables, syllables into words, and words into phrases that are necessary for intelligible speech.	<p>“My child is struggling when trying to make sounds. He has hard time imitating words”.</p> <p>“I can see my child trying hard to pronounce words but it comes out incorrectly.”</p>
Expressive Language Disorders	Refers to deficits in a child’s expressions. This may include using words, phrases, and sentences to communicate. She/he may have trouble naming various vocabulary and may not correctly use sentence structure and grammar.	<p>“My child is not using full sentences yet”.</p> <p>“My child is having trouble answering my questions or telling me about his/her day.”</p>
Dysphagia/ Feeding and Swallowing Disorders	Swallowing problems can occur in one or more of the three stages of swallowing: oral phase, pharyngeal phase, and esophageal phase.	<p>“My child has trouble chewing food.”</p> <p>“My child only eats certain textures.”</p>

Brought to you by Elizabeth Lian, CCC-SLP at Speech Spark Therapy Services, LLC

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	Determination of the phase of difficulty is essential in treatment	"My child has a gurgly voice after meals."
Language Delay	A broad term for one or more of the following: Receptive, expressive or social language delay	"My child is two and is not talking yet." "My child does not understand basic directions."
Orofacial Myo-functional Disorder	Also called tongue thrust. It can cause problems eating, drinking, and speaking.	"My child pushes her/his food out of her/his mouth while eating." "My child has trouble saying some of his/her sounds (i.e. "thumb or some")
Pragmatic/Social Language Delay/Disorder	There are rules for how we use language in different situations and with different people. Children and adults can have trouble with these social communication rules. A child's social and interaction skills are foundational for receptive/expressive language development.	"My child has a hard time with social interactions." "My child has a hard time making and keeping friends." "My child does not have interest in playing with or near other people"
Receptive Language Disorder	Refers to problems understanding language including understanding what people mean when they use gestures, problems answering questions, and/or difficulty pointing to named objects and pictures.	"I'm not sure if my child understands what I'm saying." "My child has trouble remembering directions or re-telling stories."
Stuttering/Fluency Disorder	We all have times when we do not speak smoothly. We may add "uh" or "um" to what we say. Or, we may say a sound or word more than once. These disfluencies are normal if they happen occasionally. When it happens a lot, it may be stuttering.	"My child repeats his/her words or the beginning of words more than 2-3 times most of the time when he/she speaks". "Sometimes when my child talks, his/her face and body become tense."

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