

May is Better Speech & Hearing Month - Identify the Signs!

Learning to identify the signs of common speech and language disorders in adults and children between birth and age four can be an important stage in early detection of communication disorders.

Children: Signs of a Language Disorder

Does not smile or interact with others (birth and older)
Does not babble (4-7 months)
Makes only a few sounds or gestures, like pointing (7-12 months)
Does not understand what others say (7 months-2 years)
Says only a few words (12-18 months)
Words are not easily understood (18 months-2 years)
Does not put words together to make sentences (1.5-3 years)
Has trouble playing and talking with other children (2-3 years)
Has trouble with early reading and writing skills (2.5-3 years)

What Parents Can Do

Listen and respond to your child
Talk, read, and play with your child
Talk with your child in the language you are most comfortable using
Know it is good to teach your child to speak a second language
Talk about what you are doing and what your child is doing
Use a lot of different words with your child
Use longer sentences as your child gets older
Have your child play with other children
See a speech language pathologist for a speech, language screening or consultation

Children: Signs of a Voice Disorder

Uses a hoarse or breathy voice
Uses a nasal-sounding voice

What Parents Can Do

See a doctor if your child sounds hoarse or breathy or has a nasal-sounding voice
Tell your child not to shout or scream
Keep your child away from cigarette smoke

Children: Signs of Stuttering (Disfluency)

Struggles to say sounds or words (2.5-3 years)
Repeats first sounds of words—"b-b-b-ball" for "ball" (2.5-3 years)
Pauses a lot while talking (2.5-3 years)
Stretches sounds out—"f-f-f-farm" for "farm" (2.5-3 years)

What Parents Can Do

Give your child time to talk
Do not interrupt or stop your child while he or she is speaking
See an SLP if you are concerned (Many young children stutter for a short period of time. In most cases, the stuttering will stop.)

www.stutteringfoundation.org

For more information, check www.asha.org - Identify the Signs Campaign.

If you have concerns regarding your child's communication development, contact Laguna Beach Language & Speech Clinic for a free consult: Laguna Beach Language and Speech Clinic Lynn Epstein, MS, SLP-CCC (949) 715-5845.