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Better Speech and Hearing Month – Identify the Signs

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May is “Better Speech and Hearing Month,” a month dedicated to raising awareness about communication disorders and the professionals who treat them. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s (ASHA) campaign, *Identify the Signs*, seeks to help parents recognize signs of speech, language, and hearing disorders and find the help needed to address these disorders.



Signs of a Language Disorder

Age Range	Sign
Birth & Up	• does not smile/interact with others
4 - 7 months	• does not babble (“bababa”)
7 - 12 months	• very few sounds or gestures (pointing)
7 months - 2 years	• poor comprehension of what others say
1 1/2 - 2 years	• speech is difficult for listeners to understand
1 1/2 - 3 years	• does not combine words into sentences
2 - 3 years	• difficulty talking to and playing with peers
2 1/2 - 3 years	• difficulty with early literacy and writing skills

Signs of a Speech Sound Disorder

Age Range	Sign
1 - 2 years	• incorrect production of early sounds /p,b,m,h, w/ in words
2 - 3 years	• incorrect production of /k,g,f,t,d,n/ in words
2 - 3 years	• speech is unclear, even to familiar listeners

Signs of a Stuttering Disorder

Age Range	Sign
2 1/2 - 3 years	• difficulty producing sounds or words
2 1/2 - 3 years	• repeats the first sound of words (b-b-b-baby for “baby”)
2 1/2 - 3 years	• frequent pauses of silence when talking
2 1/2 - 3 years	• stretching sounds out while talking (sssss-silly for “silly”)

Signs of a Voice Disorder

Age Range	Sign
any age	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• hoarse- or breathy-sounding voice
any age	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• nasal quality to voice

Signs of a Hearing Problem

Age Range	Sign
birth - 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• poor attention to sounds in the environment
7 months - 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• does not respond when name is called
1 - 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• difficulty following simple directions
birth - 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• delays in speech and/or language development
any age	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• scratching or pulling at ears
school-age	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• limited academic progress, especially math and/or reading
school-age	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• social isolation and unhappiness at school
school-age	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• discomfort in ears after exposure to loud noise

If you think your child may have problems with speech, language, or hearing...

Do not hesitate to ask your child's pediatrician about an evaluation from a certified Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist. If your child is school-age, discuss your concerns with his/her teacher. Identifying a communication disorder early plays a key role in how soon effective and appropriate treatment can take place.

References

Identify the Signs of Communication Disorders by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Retrieved 4/13/2017 from www.identifythesigns.org.

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Helpful Products

The list of Super Duper® products below may be helpful when working with children who have special needs. Visit www.superduperinc.com and type in the **item name or number in our search engine**. If you're viewing this Handy Handout on a computer, click the links below to see the product descriptions.

MagneTalk Turns & Topics
[Item #GB-46](#)

Webber Problem Solving Photo Lotto
[Item #BGO-176](#)

Big Vocabulary Nouns Photo Cards
[Item #BIG-753](#)

Webber Photo Cards Function Pair-Ups
[Item #WFC-62](#)