

SPEECH & LANGUAGE

Monthly Parent Newsletter

WHAT IS COMMUNICATION?

Communication is sharing information and ideas with others. It involves both the understanding and use of language. Communication can be used for a variety of social purposes and can be expressed in a variety of ways.



What forms of communication can you think of?

COMMUNICATION CAN BE BROKEN INTO SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

Speech includes:

- Articulation (the way we say sounds and words)
- Voice
- Fluency

Language includes:

- Receptive (understanding language)
- Expressive (use of language)
 - verbal
 - nonverbal

RELIABLE SOURCES

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
- Cleveland Clinic
- Nemours KidsHealth
- SpeechTherapy.org

References:

- "Delayed Speech or Language Development (for Parents)." *KidsHealth*, Nemours, <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/not-talk.html>
- "Speech Impairment: Types, Signs & Causes." *Cleveland Clinic*, <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diseases/speech-impairment>
- "Definitions of Communication Disorders and Variations." *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association*, <https://www.asha.org/nic/definition-of-communication-and-appropriate-targets/>

WHO TO CONTACT ABOUT SPEECH-LANGUAGE CONCERNS?

Pediatricians/Primary Care Physicians (PCPs):

Inform your child's doctors about your concerns. They may suggest a professional evaluation or provide referrals.

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs):

Professionals who assess, diagnose, and treat communication and swallowing issues. They can be found in clinics (outpatient/inpatient), private practices, or schools.

They can work with pediatric, school-aged, adults, or geriatric population

School Districts/Early Intervention Specialists:

There are state-funded programs like Early Intervention that offer services (free or low-cost). If your child is school age, you can reach out to your school district.

In NJ, Early Intervention is for birth to 3 years old, and preschool/public school is for 3 years old and up

Audiologists:

Professionals who specialize in hearing. They help to determine if speech concerns are related to hearing.

Specialized Centers:

There are university clinics or rehabilitation hospitals that offer evaluation and therapy.

