

Communication Problems

Communication Problems can affect infants to geriatrics and can be there at birth or caused from illness, accident or disease.

Effective and appropriate communication skills are needed for:

- Development
- Thinking
- Listening
- Hearing
- Talking
- Learning
- Reading and Writing
- Understanding

Common Problems include:

- Difficult finding the right words
- Problems following routine directions
- Problems following more than a 2-sep request
- Attention and focus issues
- Using few details and limited verbal expression
- Difficulties responding to wh-questions – what, where, when, why, who,
- Responding with irrelevant or out of context response
- Not following a conversational topic
- Little or not attention to the needs or reactions of listeners
- Rambling on without purpose

Some typical communication disorders include:

- Language disorders - including difficulty making sense of the environment, comprehending spoken language or communicating thoughts, feelings and experiences.
- Articulation disorders - difficulties making sounds correctly in words or connected speech. Like stuttering, these problems often begin in childhood and become life-long challenges. They may occur later in life as a result of stroke, injury or illness.
- Stuttering - the most commonly recognized speech problem, although no one knows exactly what causes it.
- Aphasia - a language disorder caused by stroke, drug use, brain injury or illness. A person with aphasia may be truly at a loss for words - unable to say even his or her own name.
- Voice disorders - apparent when people speak too high or too low, or when the quality of voice is affected (such as having a hoarse, breathy or nasal voice).
- Cognitive communication disorders common in adults after a head injury or stroke. These disorders make it difficult to think clearly, remember or problem solve.
- Swallowing disorders - known as dysphagia. This usually occurs as a result of illness, surgery, stroke or injury.

Speech-language pathologists also help people with other challenges:

- Augmentative and alternative communication - offering new possibilities for people who cannot speak. Technology offers an array of options, including voice synthesizing computers and communication boards.
- Communication enhancement- improving everyday communication skills, such as pitch, projection, accent and nonverbal communication.
- Reading, dyslexia, and literacy - focus on the underlying skills needed in reading, comprehension, decoding, encoding, spelling, writing and other issues related to literacy and written communication