

## **Know the Signs of Speech and Language Disorders (from ASHA)**

Signs of common speech and language disorders in adults and children between birth to 4 years of age, 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

### **Children: Signs of a Speech Sound Disorder**

Says p, b, m, h, and w incorrectly in words (1-2 years)  
Says k, g, f, t, d, and n incorrectly in words (2-3 years)  
Produces speech that is unclear, even to familiar people (2-3 years)  
What Parents Can Do  
Say the sounds correctly when you talk—it is okay if your child makes some mistakes with sounds  
Do not correct speech sounds—it is more important to let your child keep talking

### **What Parents Can Do**

Say the sounds correctly when you talk—it is okay if your child makes some mistakes with sounds  
Do not correct speech sounds—it is more important to let your child keep talking