

IDENTIFY THE SIGNS

Learn the signs of communication disorders.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

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 and Youth

- Says only a few sounds, words, or gestures (18 months to 2 years)
- Words aren't understood (18 months to 2 years)
- Doesn't combine words (starting at 2 years)
- Doesn't interact socially (infancy and beyond)
- Doesn't follow or understand what you say (starting at 1 year)
- Struggles to say sounds or words (3 to 4 years)

Adults

- Struggles to say sounds or words (Stuttering)
- Repetition of words or parts of words (Stuttering)
- Speaks in short, fragmented phrases (expressive Aphasia)
- Says words in the wrong order (expressive Aphasia)
- Struggles with both using words and understanding others (global Aphasia)
- Difficulty imitating speech sounds, inconsistent errors, slow rate of speech (Apraxia)
- "Slurred" speech (Dysarthria)
- Slow or rapid rate of speech often with a "mumbling" quality (Dysarthria)

HEARING LOSS

Signs of untreated hearing loss in adults, children and youth.

Children and Youth

- Lack of attention to sounds
- Doesn't follow simple directions
- Doesn't respond when their name is called
- Delays in speech and language development
- Pulls or scratches at the ears
- Difficulty in all areas of academic achievement, especially reading and math
- Socially isolated and unhappy in school
- Persistent ear discomfort after exposure to loud noise (i.e. regular and constant listening to electronics at high volumes)

Adults

- Inattentiveness
- Buzzing or ringing in the ears
- Failure to respond to spoken words
- Persistent ear discomfort after exposure to loud noise (i.e. regular and constant listening to electronics at high volumes)
- Muffled hearing
- Constant frustration hearing spoken words and other sounds
- Avoiding conversation
- Social isolation
- Depression

The early stages of communication disorders are easier to spot when you know the signs. Early detection can improve treatment and quality of life.

For more info visit
IdentifyTheSigns.org.

