

Communication

Disorders

Many children have communication disorders ranging from not speaking to a slight stutter or not reading verbal cues. In order for children to thrive they all need a functional method of communication, including both an understanding of what is being said to them and a way to communicate their own needs, wants, and desires. When communication is disrupted the result is often a behavioral issue.

- **Apraxia or Dyspraxia**
 - <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/voice/apraxia.asp>
- **Central Auditory Processing Disorder**
 - http://kidshealth.org/parent/medical/ears/central_auditory.html
 - <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/voice/auditory.asp>
- **Language-Based Learning Disability**
 - <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/language-based-learning-disabilities.htm>
- **Stuttering, Cluttering & Articulation Disorders**
 - http://kidshealth.org/teen/diseases_conditions/sight/speech_disorders.html

Communication Therapy

Many children have difficulty expressing themselves verbally. There are a variety of different methods used to enhance a child's communication. One method is by teaching "total communication" which means using multiple methodologies to help build language skills. This might include Picture Exchange, Sign Language, and Verbal Language.

- <http://www.asha.org/default.htm>

Augmentative Devices

PECS

Picture-Exchange Communication System (PECS) is a way to teach children who are not yet verbal to communicate their needs and desires. PECS uses a system of line drawings to represent objects. This child is given the line drawings to exchange for the desired object.

Voice Output Devices

Voice output devices (also called AAC) are programmable icons that children can push and will speak for the child.

Developmental Milestones

Click here for a speech developmental milestone worksheet.

- <http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/voice/speechandlanguage.asp>