



Speech.
Occupational.
Physical.



▶ *When a child has a sensory disorder, everyday noise can sound as confusing and overly stimulated as the look of a beautiful kaleidoscope.*

SPEECH SOUND DISORDERS

Most children make mistakes as they learn to say new words. A speech sound disorder occurs when speech errors continue past a certain age. Every speech sound has a different range of age when the child should be able to produce the sound correctly. Speech sound disorders include problems with articulation (making sounds) and phonological processes (sound patterns).

SIGNS OF AN ARTICULATION DISORDER

An articulation disorder involves difficulty making sounds. Sounds can be left off, added or changed. These errors may make it hard for people to understand your child's speech.

Young children often make speech errors. For instance, many young children may use a "w" sound for an "r" sound (e.g., "wabbit" for "rabbit") or may leave sounds or syllables out of words, such as "nana" for "banana." The child may have an articulation disorder if these errors continue past the expected age of acquisition for that sound.

Not all sound substitutions are speech errors. Instead, they may be related to a feature of a dialect or accent. For example, speakers of African American Vernacular English (AAVE) may use a 'd' sound for a "th" sound (e.g., "dis" for "this"). This is not a speech sound disorder, but rather one of the phonological features of AAVE.

SIGNS OF A PHONOLOGICAL DISORDER

A phonological disorder involves patterns of sound errors. For example, substituting all sounds made in the back of the mouth like "k" and "g" for those in the front of the mouth like "t" and "d" (e.g., saying "tup" for "cup" or "dame" for "game").

Some words start with two consonants, (consonant blends) such as broken or spoon. When children don't follow this rule and say only one of the sounds ("boken" for broken or "poon" for "spoon"), it is more

difficult for the listener to understand the child. While it is common for young children learning speech to leave one of the sounds out of the word, it is not expected as a child gets older. If an older child demonstrates reduction of consonant blends, he or she may have a phonological process disorder.

HOW TO DIAGNOSE SPEECH SOUND DISORDERS

A speech-language pathologist (SLP) is the professional that evaluates children or adults with speech and language difficulties. The SLP listens to the person's speech and may use a formal articulation test to record sound errors. An oral mechanism examination can also be completed to determine whether the muscles of the mouth are working correctly. The SLP may recommend speech treatment if the sound is not appropriate for the child's age or if it is not a feature of a dialect or accent. For children, the SLP often also evaluates their language development to determine overall communication functioning.

TREATMENTS AVAILABLE

SLPs provide treatment to improve articulation of individual sounds or reduce errors in production of sound patterns. Articulation treatment may involve demonstrating how to produce the sound correctly, learning to recognize which sounds are correct and incorrect, and practicing sounds in different words. Phonological process treatment may involve teaching the rules of group of sounds to help individuals say words correctly.



WE CAN HELP!

101 CLEVELAND AVE. STE D.
MARTINSVILLE, VA 24112

PH: 276-352-4465

E: ACMETherapiesco@Gmail.com

www.ACMETherapies.com

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @ ACME THERAPIES CO.