

Speech Disorders

WHAT IS A SPEECH DISORDER?

An impairment of the articulation of speech sound production, voice, resonance, or fluency (the flow of speech).

THERE ARE 4 TYPES OF SPEECH DISORDERS:

- Speech Sound Disorders
- Voice Disorders
- Resonance Disorders
- Fluency Disorders (Stuttering)

Speech Sound Disorders

WHAT

When a child is unable to say all the speech sounds in a word(s). This can make the child's speech hard to understand.



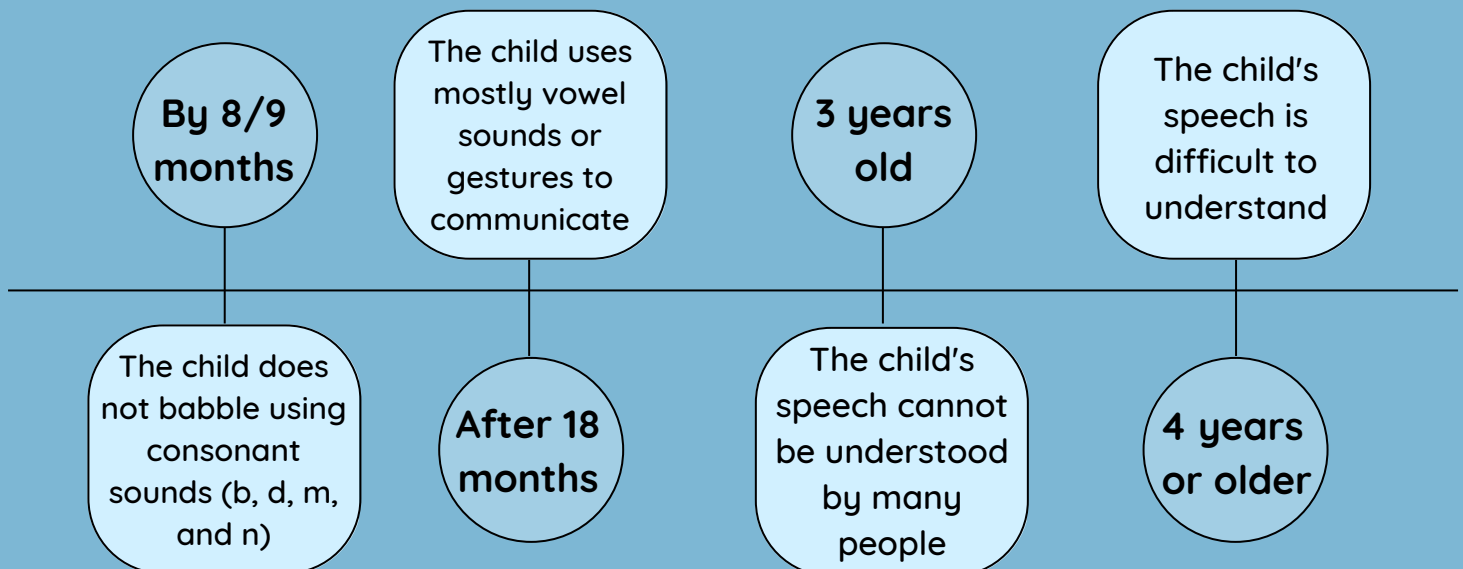
WHY



Possible causes include:

- Cleft Palate
- Problems with teeth
- Hearing loss
- Difficulty controlling the movements of the mouth

CONCERNS



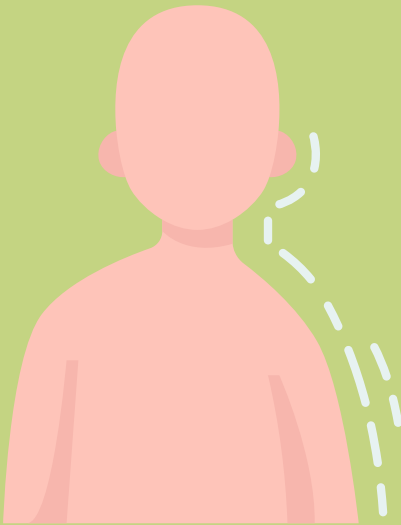
Voice Disorders

WHAT

The voice may be harsh, hoarse, raspy, cut in and out, or show sudden changes in pitch.



WHY



Possible causes include:

- Vocal nodules
- Cysts
- Papillomas
- Paralysis
- Weakness of the vocal folds

CONCERNS

Reasons for concern include:

1. The voice is hoarse, harsh, or breathy.
2. The voice is always too loud or too soft.
3. The pitch is inappropriate for the individual's age or gender.
4. The voice often "breaks" or suddenly changes pitch.
5. Frequent loss of voice.

Resonance Disorders

When the quality of the voice changes as it travels through the throat, nose, and mouth.



WHAT

TYPES & WHY

Hyponasality: when insufficient sounds come through the nose, making the child sound "stopped up"

- Caused by a blockage in the nose or by allergies

Cul-de-Sac Resonance: when there is a blockage of sounds in the nose, mouth, or throat and the voice sounds muffled, or quiet, as a result.

Hypernasality: when too many sounds escape through the nose.

- Can be due to history of cleft palate, a submucous cleft, a short palate, a wide nasopharynx, or poor movement of the soft palate.

CONCERNS

Reasons for concern include:

1. Speech sounds hyponasal or hypernasal.
2. Air is heard coming out of the nose during speech.

Fluency Disorders

WHAT

Stuttering happens when there are an abnormal number of repetitions, hesitations, prolongations, or blocks in this rhythm or flow of speech. Tension may be seen in the face, neck, shoulders, or fists.



WHY



Possible causes may be linked to:

- Underlying neurological differences in speech and language processing.
- Internal reactions from the person talking, and external reactions from other listeners, may impact stuttering, but they do not cause it.

CONCERNS

Reasons for concern include:

1. The child has an abnormal number of repetitions, hesitations, prolongations, or blocks in the natural flow of speech.
2. The child exhibits tension during speech.
3. The child avoids speaking due to a fear of stuttering.
4. The child considers himself to be someone who stutters.