

Detecting Speech Disorders

Approximately 10 million Americans suffer from language impairments.

Information provided by the staff at Premium Therapy

A child's language development is a big topic of conversation for many parents. Though no one child develops in exactly the same way, there are various developmental milestones your child is expected to reach by age 3.

At 36 months your child should be able to pronounce about 75% of all words clearly. Your child should also be able to use about 500 words, ask simple questions, engage in short conversation, speak in sentences of 3 to 4 words, introduce and change topics, and begin to request clarification throughout conversations.

If your child has not yet reached these developmental milestones by age 3 it may be time to seek an evaluation. Though many late talkers do eventually catch up to age-matched peers, there are some instances where an early delay in the development of speech and language may lead to more long lasting

deficits in communication. If you are a parent and concerned with your child's speech and language development an evaluation will help in figuring out if intervention is warranted and the steps that should be taken next.

Disorders in speech and language are not only seen in children but in adults as well. As people age they may notice a variety of changes in their speech, language, and swallowing. In many adults these changes may be due to normal aging. Major difficulties in these areas though may be the sign of disordered communication or swallowing. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, by 2030 the number of Americans over the age of 65 will nearly double compared to the year 2000. How can we ensure that this growing adult population is able to accurately differentiate between normal aging and possible disordered communication and swallowing?

Some 10 million Americans suffer impairments in speech and language. Approximately 22% of the aging population struggle with the ability to swallow. A speech disorder is when a person has difficulty producing speech sounds correctly or fluently, or problems in voice quality. A language disorder happens when a person has difficulty understanding others or expressing thoughts and feelings. A swallowing disorder is when a person has difficulty chewing, starting a swallow, or actually swallowing.

BY THE NUMBERS Here are some statistics regarding children and adults

CHILDREN
75%

Of all words should be clear by age 3.

CHILDREN
500

Words should be used by age 3.

OLDER ADULTS
22%

Struggle with swallowing.

IMPAIRMENTS
10M

Americans have speech impairments.

SEEKING HELP

Appropriate Treatment Plans

Speech language pathologists are essential in evaluating and accurately diagnosing communication and swallowing disorders. If therapy is warranted, it's the speech language pathologist's job to develop an appropriate treatment plan based on the severity of diagnosis. A disorder in communication or swallowing can be frustrating but it doesn't have to be debilitating. Therapy can help. To learn more about the types of speech, language, and swallowing disorders, how to get treatment, or for a free screening, visit PremiumTherapyNYC.com or call 212-304-0400. Hablamos Español.



A disorder in communication or swallowing can be very frustrating but it doesn't have to be debilitating. Therapy can help.

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