

Getting the Word Out To Parents About Speech, Language, and Hearing Problems

Although more than 5 million children in the United States have a speech, language, and hearing disorder, parents are often uninformed and unsure about what to do when they suspect their child. This May, and every May since 1927, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has used the May is Better Hearing and Speech Month (BSHM) celebration to provide parents with information about communication disorders to help ensure that these disorders do not seriously affect their children's ability to learn, socialize with others and be successful in school.

Speech and language problems can occur at any time in a child's life. They can be caused by accidental injury, illness, or inherited by birth. Child speech and language problems include:



- Stuttering
- Articulation problems ("wabbit" instead of "rabbit")
- Language disorders such as the slow development of vocabulary, concepts, and grammar
- Voice disorders (nasal, breathy, or hoarse voice and speech that is too high or too low)

Parents who suspect their child has a communication disorder should see an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist. These professionals identify, assess, and treat speech and language problems including swallowing disorders. Speech-language pathologists work in schools, private practice, hospitals, clinics, rehabilitation centers, health departments, research laboratories, and other health education settings.

"Fortunately, most children with speech, language and hearing problems can be helped," according to Catherine Gottfred, PhD, speech-language pathologist and ASHA president. "Even if the problem cannot be eliminated, we can teach the child strategies to help them cope with their communication disorders, or provide them with the appropriate technology. By promoting Better Hearing and Speech Month, we hope parents will learn about communication disorders, what they can do to help their children, and how speech-language pathologists and audiologists can help with their child's communication disorders."

254 River Vista Place, Twin Falls, ID 83301

208.734.7333 • 208.734.8350 (fax)
www.primarytherapysource.com



Treating you to a better life.