

# Handy Handouts®

Free informational handouts for educators, parents, and students

## National Speech-Language-Hearing Month - Identify the Signs

by Abby Sakovich M.S., CCC-SLP

May is National Speech-Language-Hearing Month, a month dedicated to raising awareness about communication disorders and the professionals who treat them. The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) campaign, Identify the Signs, seeks to help parents recognize signs of speech, language, and hearing disorders and find the help needed to address these disorders.



### Signs of a Language Disorder



Age Range	Sign
birth and older	• does not smile/interact with others
4 - 6 months	• does not babble ("bababa")
7 - 9 months	• very few sounds or gestures (pointing)
10 months - 2 years	• poor comprehension of what others say
19 months - 2 years	• says only a few words
19 months - 3 years	• does not combine words into sentences
3 - 4 years	• speech is difficult for listeners to understand
4 - 5 years	• difficulty with early literacy and pre-writing skills

### Signs of a Speech Sound Disorder



Age Range	Sign
2 - 3 years	• incorrect production of early sounds /p,b,m,h, w/ in words
3 - 4 years	• incorrect production of /k,g,f,t,d,n/ in words
2 - 3 years	• speech is unclear, even to familiar listeners

### Signs of a Stuttering Disorder



Age Range	Sign
any age	• repeats the first sound of words (b-b-b-baby for "baby")
any age	• stretches sounds out while talking (sssss-silly for "silly")
any age	• shows frustration when trying to get words out

# Handy Handouts®

Free informational handouts for educators, parents, and students  
(cont.)

## Signs of a Voice Disorder



Age Range	Sign
any age	• hoarse- or breathy-sounding voice
any age	• loss of voice
any age	• effortful or strained voice

## Signs of a Hearing Problem



Age Range	Sign
birth - 3 months	• poor attention to sounds in the environment
7 months - 9 months	• does not respond when name is called
13 - 18 months	• difficulty following simple directions
birth - 3 years	• delays in speech and/or language development
any age	• scratching or pulling at ears
school-age	• limited academic progress, especially math and/or reading
school-age	• social isolation and unhappiness at school
any age	• discomfort in ears after exposure to loud noise

### If you think your child may have problems with speech, language, or hearing...

Do not hesitate to ask your child's pediatrician about an evaluation from a certified Speech-Language Pathologist or Audiologist. If your child is school-age, discuss your concerns with his/her teacher. Identifying a communication disorder early plays a key role in how soon effective and appropriate treatment can take place.



#### Resources:

Know the Signs of Speech & Language Disorders by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Retrieved 5/13/2025 from [www.identifythesigns.org](http://www.identifythesigns.org)

Know the Signs of Hearing Loss by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Retrieved 5/13/2025 from [www.identifythesigns.org](http://www.identifythesigns.org)

For more FREE Handy Handouts®, go to [www.handyhandouts.com](http://www.handyhandouts.com)