

Speech Therapy



**Morrow County
Hospital**
OhioHealth

Associated with OhioHealth

What is Speech Therapy?

Speech therapy is designed to help individuals regain or increase their ability to communicate or swallow.

Who Can Receive Speech Therapy?

Individuals of all ages (children through geriatrics) are eligible for speech therapy services if an identified need exists.

What Disorders Does Speech Therapy Address?

- Speech Sound Disorders
- Language Delays
- Fluency/Stuttering Disorders
- Swallowing Disorders
- Cognitive-Linguistic Deficits
- Aphasia
- Dysarthria
- Apraxia of Speech
- Voice Disorders

What Do I Have To Do In Order To Receive Speech Therapy?

1. Determine that you feel there is a problem with one of the above areas.
2. Visit your doctor and discuss your concerns.
3. Ask your doctor if he/she feels speech therapy would help.
4. Get an order for speech therapy with the diagnosis from your doctor.
5. Call **(419) 949-3096** to schedule your first appointment.

Speech Sounds Disorders

Children normally make some speech errors as they learn to talk. Each sound we produce has an age range when children typically can say that sound correctly. A speech sound disorder occurs when errors continue past a certain age. Speech sound disorders can include problems with articulation (saying certain sounds) or phonological processes (producing sound patterns).

Language Delays

A language delay is a communication disorder in which a child fails to develop language according to traditional developmental milestones. Some examples of typical language development: At one year of age, a child should use speech or non-crying sounds to get and keep attention. They should also have one or two words (although sounds may not be clear). At two years of age, a child should be putting two words together ("more cookie") and ask one-to-two word questions ("Go bye-bye?").

Fluency/Stuttering Disorders

Stuttering is a disorder that affects the fluency of speech. It is characterized by disruptions in the production of speech, called disfluencies. Disfluencies include repetitions ("*the, the, the boy*"), blocks ("*- - - hello*"), and/or prolongation of words or parts of words ("*Thhhank you*").

Swallowing Disorders

Swallowing disorders, called dysphasia, is the difficulty moving food from the mouth to the stomach. This problem can occur as a result of congenital abnormalities, structural damage, and/or medical conditions. Problems associat-

ed with dysphasia can include: poor nutrition or dehydration, risk of aspiration (food or liquid entering the airway) which can lead to pneumonia and/or chronic lung disease, less enjoyment of eating or drinking, and/or embarrassment or isolation in social situations involving eating.

Cognitive-Linguistic Deficits

Cognitive-linguistic deficits are impairments with thinking skills. Such skills include: orientation, attention/concentration, immediate memory, short-term memory, long-term memory, sequencing, organization, reasoning, problem solving and executive function.

Aphasia

Aphasia is an acquired communication disorder that is caused by damage to the parts of the brain that contain language. This can result in the loss of the ability to process or produce language but is not an impairment of intelligence. Deficits may be seen in some or all of the following areas: speaking, listening, reading or writing.

Dysarthria

Dysarthria is a motor speech disorder where the muscles of the mouth, face, and/or respiratory system become weak, move slowly, or not move at all. Some causes of dysarthria include: stroke, brain injury, cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy.

Apraxia of Speech

Apraxia of speech is a motor speech disorder caused by damage to the brain that is responsible for speaking. Individuals with apraxia of

speech demonstrate difficulty sequencing the sounds in syllables and words.

Voice Disorders

Voicing is produced when air is passed from a person's lungs through his or her larynx, (voice box) and vibrates the vocal folds. Injuries can occur to the vocal folds from too much talking, screaming, constant throat clearing or smoking. These can also lead to problems such as nodules, polyps and sores on the vocal folds. Additionally, voice disorders can also be caused by cancer, viruses, vocal cord paralysis, stomach acid irritation and other diseases.

If you have any questions regarding speech therapy, please contact the Speech-Language Pathologist – **(419) 949-3096**.





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