

Nancy L. Foreman & Associates L.L.C.

Certified Speech-Language Pathologists
www.HoustonSpeech.com

(713) 669-8635
(713) 218-7593 Fax
4545 Bissonnet
Suite 250
Bellaire, TX 77401

Warning Signs to Look For

Signs of a Receptive Language Problem

- *Your toddler doesn't respond to his or her name.*
- *Your toddler/preschooler finds objects much more interesting than people.*
- *Your preschooler doesn't listen to stories.*
- *Your child has difficulty with reading comprehension once he or she is able to read.*
- *Your child withdraws from social conversation or tries to develop relationships through physical activities.*
- *Your child may be very "forgetful."*
- *Your child misconstrues what others are saying to him or her.*
- *Your child has difficulty following directions.*

Signs of an Expressive Language Problem

- *Your child seldom initiates conversations and tends to give short answers to your questions.*
- *Your child may talk in circles.*
- *Your child has difficulty remembering the names of people, places, and things.*
- *Your child has difficulty putting sentences together with enough words or with the right words, or in the right order.*

Red Flag: Recurrent ear infections often times indicate a red flag.

If your child has had frequent ear infections, you should be on guard for possible delays in speech, language, and listening skills. Research has indicated that even a very mild loss or change of hearing clarity in one ear can significantly affect a child's ability to process speech.

Signs of a Language Processing Problem

- *Your child misunderstands or confuses what is being said.*
- *Your child needs directions explained several times and sometimes needs demonstrations.*
- *Your child needs an unusual amount of time to think before answering a question.*
- *Your child watches what everyone else is doing to figure out what to do.*
- *Your child makes comments that don't fit the discussion.*
- *Your child has other speech, language, listening, or learning disabilities.*
- *Your child has a history of frequent middle ear infections.*
- *Your child tunes out or doesn't pay attention during listening tasks.*

Signs of Toddlers and Preschoolers with Word Retrieval Problems

- *Your toddler/preschooler exhibits a marked gap between the receptive vocabulary score (at or above normal limits) and the expressive score (below average or lower).*
- *Your toddler/preschooler shows a lack of ability to remember new words and use them correctly.*
- *Your toddler/preschooler overgeneralizes words (past the age of 24 months).*
- *Your child forgets the names of teachers, friends, and relatives.*
- *Your child is often very animated with gestures and noises to compensate for lack of words.*
- *Your child expresses obvious frustration when the word won't come and he or she is unable to recall it.*
- *Your child inserts lots of pauses throughout conversational language and "do-overs" with word choices.*

Signs of School-Age Children with Word Retrieval Problems

- *Your child possesses average or above-average intellectual ability.*
- *Your child exhibits other learning disabilities, often related to reading problems.*
- *Your child uses an inordinate amount of "ums", "uhs", or other stalls.*
- *Your child exhibits grimacing, clenching of fists, blinking of eyes, or other signs of frustration when stalling.*
- *Your child overuses vague words such as "stuff" and "thing".*
- *Your child uses words that are similar to, but not as precise in meaning as, the intended word.*
- *Your child talks around a subject or a word instead of identifying it directly.*

- *Your child makes up words such as “a car loader truck” or “a twisty plant that goes up the house”, particularly after they have already been exposed to the correct word and use it on many occasions.*
- *Your child has difficulty pronouncing multisyllabic words; often mispronouncing or omitting syllables.*
- *Your child has difficulty completing fill-in-the-blank test formats quickly or accurately.*
- *Your child completes multiple-choice or matching-column test formats with greater success than fill-in-the-blank formats or essays.*
- *Your child needs extra time to put thoughts together.*
- *Your child raises their hand in class but often has no answer when called upon.*
- *Your child finds essay writing challenging.*