



03 Understanding Students with Language Disorder

Definition

Language disorder means that a person's ability to comprehend language and express feelings is severely challenged when comparing with peers in the same age group, and therefore results in communication difficulties, and negative impact in schoolwork and social activities.

Common Characteristics of Language Disorder

- Volume of speech is either too loud or too low, lacks variety in voice;
- Pronunciations omitted, changed, repeated or substituted during dialogue;
- Speech impediment occurred during dialogue, inconsistent rhythm, repeat, extend or interrupt words involuntarily;
- Difficulties in recalling words, use limited number of words;
- Grammatical mistakes in sentences;
- Difficulties in using relatively long or complex sentences to express meaning;
- Unable to use exact words to express meaning, or unable to understand a speaker's meaning.

Instructional Strategies and Principles

- Use simple, precise words and talk slowly to students;
- Provide different opportunities to communicate in natural settings;
- When talking to students, use appropriate sample sentences, extended sentences and apply good questioning skills;
- Use toys, telephone, recorder, games such as hide-and-seek to motivate students to speak up;
- Design various activities to encourage students to communicate themselves in order to enhance their abilities to listen carefully and express themselves;
- Create teaching materials such as word cards to enhance students' recognitions and memories of words, sounds and meanings;
- Ask students to repeat instructions using their own words in order to ensure that they understand the instructions;
- Allow sufficient time for students to express their thoughts and needs;
- Do not intentionally correct every mistakes students made when they attempt to express themselves;
- Repeat key points of stories and textbook contents, and raise encouraging questions;
- Provide feedback and encouragement in praise of students' reactions, expressions and efforts.

Education Principles for Parents

- Do not make comparisons between your children and others, especially in front of them;
- Provide enjoyable and relaxed language learning environments whenever possible;
- Use short, clear phrases and sentences to communicate with children whenever possible, and limit to one topic during any conversation;
- Express interest in the content of children's dialogue with eyes or physical language to clearly demonstrate your interest in the content of their expressions and made them feel being accepted by you;
- Encourage children to use language to express their needs whenever possible, and let them know the importance of language use;
- Fully utilize children's potentials by providing more appreciation and applause, and gradually build children's confidence and encourage them to express themselves;
- Collaborate closely with teachers and professionals to carry out appropriate treatments and learning plans.

The Road to Success

- Patience when listening to their expressions, never interrupt;
- Never duplicate their language mistakes;
- Never make fun of their language deficiencies.

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