

Speech-Language Therapy Terms

BASIC TERMS

SPEECH refers to vocal communication, using sounds in combination, to communicate an intended meaning. Speech is comprised of three areas: articulation, voice, and fluency.

1) ARTICULATION refers to the actual sound production and intelligibility. It focuses on how and where the sounds are produced.

2) VOICE refers to the pitch, quality (i.e. hoarseness, nasality), and volume which are produced in the larynx.

3) FLUENCY refers to the smooth flow of speech. Dysfluent speech is also called stuttering.

LANGUAGE refers to all forms of communication, such as speech, gestures, sign language, picture systems, or facilitated communication. Language looks at both receptive and expressive language

* RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE refers to the understanding of what is communicated. This relates to understanding vocabulary, following directions, comprehending a story, etc.

* EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE refers to using a form of communication to convey a message. It relates to vocabulary, word order, sentence length, etc.

ADDITIONAL TERMS

APRAXIA OF SPEECH refers to difficulty with motor planning for volitional speech movements.

AUDITORY PROCESSING refers to difficulty recognizing, remembering, and comprehending auditory information in the presence of normal hearing. It is most often exhibited by children with an early history of chronic ear infections.

DYSARTHRIA refers to weakness of the oral musculature.

PARALLEL PROCESSING refers to the ability to move and comprehend language or move and use language simultaneously. Either fine or gross motor activity may interfere with language abilities, especially in children who are distractible or have sensory integration difficulties.