Speech and Language Disorder Fact Sheet

Definition:
- When a person is unable to produce speech sounds correctly or fluently, or has problems with his or her voice. Difficulties pronouncing sounds, or articulation disorders, and stuttering are examples of speech disorders.
- When a person has trouble understanding others (receptive language), or sharing thoughts, ideas, and feelings completely (expressive language), then he or she has a language disorder. A stroke can result in aphasia, or a language disorder.
- Both children and adults can have speech and language disorders. They can occur as a result of a medical problem or have no known cause.

Tips for Parents:
- Result to resources offered by the school system or administrators
- Work with your child to maintain a positive and stable environment
- Early intervention
- Speech language pathology

Tips for Teachers:
- Follow your child’s specific plans
- Be your child’s advocate for learning
- Assistive technology
- Sign language in the classroom
- Intervention planning

Prevalence:
- Considered to be high-incidence
- Out of special education students, roughly 20% receive services for speech and language disorders
- 55.2% of 3, 4, and 5 year olds who have disabilities also receive services for speech and language disorders

Causes:
- Hearing loss
- Neurological disorders
- Brain injury
- Intellectual disabilities
- Drug abuse
- Physical impairments
- Vocal abuse or misuse
- Frequently the causes is unknown though

Treatment Options:
- Early intervention specialists
- Speech- language therapy
  - Considered one of the most effective approaches
- Occupational therapy
- Psychological therapy is often used due to related emotional and behavioral problems
  - Psychotherapy
  - Counseling
- Cognitive behavior therapy
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**Symptoms:**
- Typical signs of a Speech/Language Impairment*
  - Producing unclear sounds
  - Lack of interaction
  - Difficulty making sense of words
  - Lack of or no regulated speech pattern
  - Struggles to form words and specific sounds
  - Saying few words and difficulty combining known words
  - Lack of gestures/interactive communication

*most of these symptoms occur past or a significant length of time after the typical age of development

**Regional Contacts:**
- Denton Regional Medical Center (940) 384-3535
- Department of Audiology & Speech-Language Pathology at UNT
  - SLP: (940) 565-3716
  - Audiology: (940) 369-7025
- Speech Language and Hearing Clinic at TWU (940) 898-2285
- The Warren Center for Developmental Delays (972) 490-9055

**Resources:**
- [http://identifythesigns.org/](http://identifythesigns.org/)
- [https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/](https://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/)
- [http://www.txsha.org/](http://www.txsha.org/)
- [http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/speechlanguage/](http://www.parentcenterhub.org/repository/speechlanguage/)