



SERTOMA SPEECH & HEARING CENTERS

5 Warning Signs of Childhood Communication Disorders

1. Language Disorders

- Does not smile or interact with others (birth and older)
- Does not babble (4–7 months)
- Makes only a few sounds or gestures, like pointing (7–12 months)
- Does not understand what others say (7 months–2 years)
- Says only a few words (12–18 months)
- Words are not easily understood (18 months–2 years)
- Does not put words together to make sentences (1.5–3 years)
- Has trouble playing and talking with other children (2–3 years)

2. Speech Sound Disorders

- Says p, b, m, h, and w incorrectly in words (1–2 years)
- Says k, g, f, t, d, and n incorrectly in words (2–3 years)
- Produces speech that is unclear, even to familiar people (2–3 years)

3. Stuttering

- Repeats first sounds of words—“b-b-b-ball” for “ball”
- Speech breaks while trying to say a word—“---boy” for “boy”

- Stretches sounds out—“ffffff-farm” for “farm”
- Shows frustration when trying to get words out

4. Voice Disorders

- Uses a hoarse or breathy voice
- Uses a nasal-sounding voice

5. Hearing Loss

- Shows a lack of attention to sounds (birth-1 year)
- Does not respond when you call their name (7 months-1 year)
- Does not follow simple directions (1-2 years)
- Shows delays in speech and language development (birth-3 years)
- Pulls or scratches at their ears
- Has difficulty achieving academically, especially in reading and math
- Is socially isolated and unhappy at school
- Has persistent ear discomfort after exposure to loud noise (regular and constant listening to electronics at high volumes)

If You Suspect a Problem, Take Action!

To learn more about children's speech and hearing development, visit [Resources](#), or to schedule a speech or hearing evaluation for your child, please call us.