



What is speech therapy?

Speech-language therapy is the assessment and treatment of communication disorders.

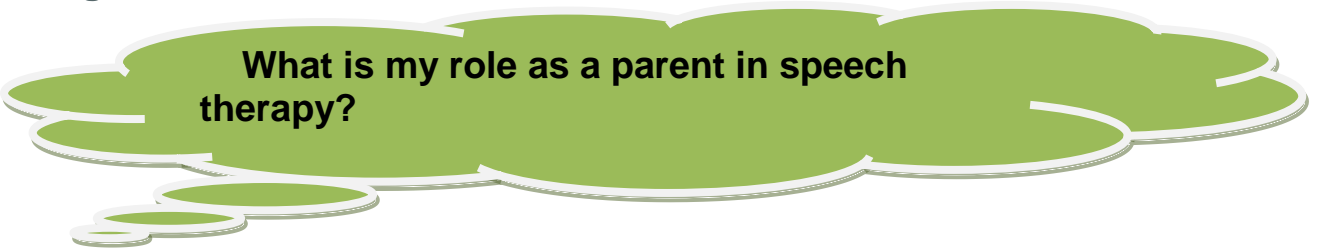
The therapist caters to people with communication issues across all ages. Some communication disorder are listed below:

- Speech Language Delays
- Speech Sound Disorders/ errors with speech sounds
- Stuttering/ Fluency disorders
- Voice disorders
- Resonance disorders/ cleft-lip and palate
- Aphasia/loss of language post-stroke
- Dysarthria/ motor speech disorders
- Swallowing/ Feeding issues
- Developmental disorders (Autism/ ADHD/ Cerebral Palsy/ Syndromes)



How do I know if my child has a speech delay?

You can simply follow the developmental chart to note down if your child meets the criteria for the normal skills listed in their age range.



What is my role as a parent in speech therapy?

Parents are active team members in the speech-language therapy process. Since learning happens all day and every day, parents play a crucial role. Parents work with the speech-language therapist to set goals for their children. Further, work along with therapists to give details about the child. Overall, parents carry over the activities at home and implement suggestions given by the therapist.



Can I do speech therapy at home?

Speech Language Therapists are certified and trained professionals to set goals and treat communication disorders. Hence, guidance by a speech therapist is a must if you want the desired progress for your child. For example, One can't be a doctor and self-medicate, similarly doing speech-language therapy at home without guidance is a big "No". However, as a parent consult a speech-language therapist and get a home-based plan with regular follow-ups to ensure you are on the right track.



Are speech delay and Autism the same?

No, a speech-language delay is simply a delay in the development of speech-language comprehension and expression. Having a speech delay does not mean the child is Autistic. However, Autism is a neuro-diversity condition.



Are speech therapy and language therapy different?

No, speech-language therapy is one term. It simply means therapy focusing on improving overall speech and language skills. They go hand-in-hand with children diagnosed with speech-language disorders. However, for children with speech sound disorders, resonance disorders, and stuttering it's called speech therapy because the focus is primarily on speech skills.



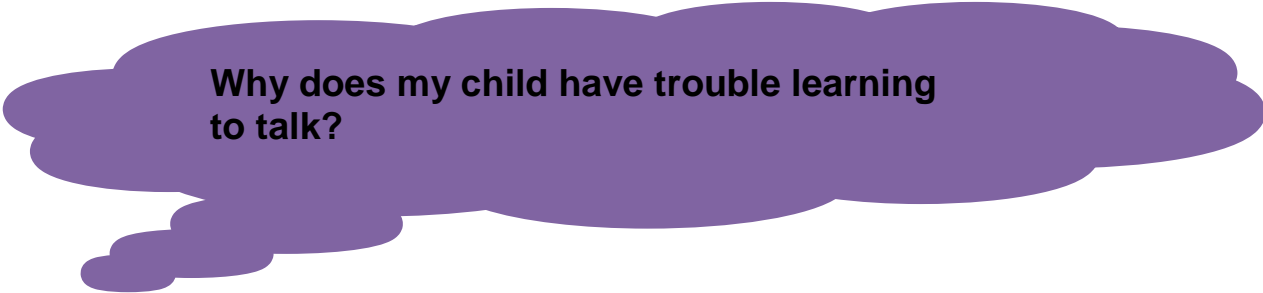
How to find a good speech therapist near me?

When you visit a speech-language therapist always check if the therapist is certified and qualified.

Ask around: family, friends, other pediatric.....

Ask for the telephone number, address.....

Check online (website)

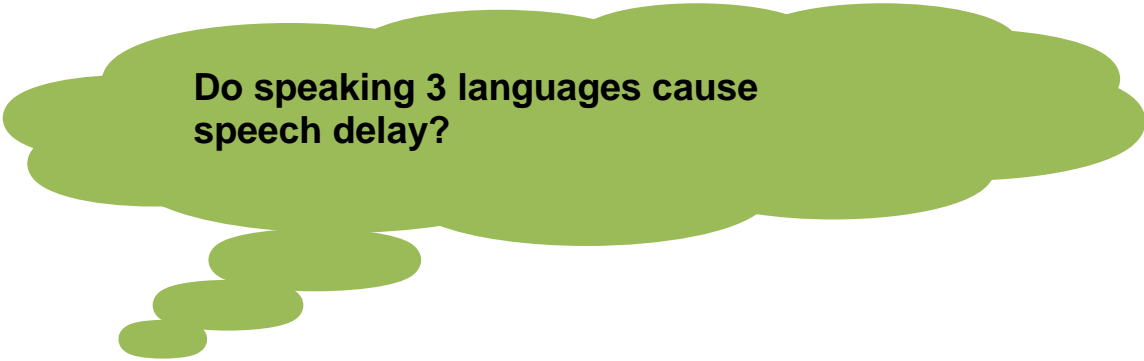


Why does my child have trouble learning to talk?

Many children have speech-language delays. **A child can have trouble learning to talk due to one or many reasons. Here are a few reasons of speech delay:**

- Inadequate speech-language stimulation at home
- Pre-natal/ post-natal birth complications
- Oral-motor issues
- Developmental conditions (Autism/ ADHD/ Cerebral palsy/ syndromes)
- Hearing loss
- Sensory processing disorders
- Cleft lip and palate
- Other neurological conditions
- Genetic causes

These are examples of a few reasons. However, in most cases, unknown factors cause delayed development. If your child has trouble learning to talk, consult a speech-language therapist today



Do speaking 3 languages cause speech delay?

No, research over the years has proved that this is a myth. Speaking two or more language does not cause a speech-language delay



Who to approach if my child is not speaking properly?

If you notice your child is not developing his/her speaking, it is time to consult a professional. A speech-language therapist is a professional dealing with speech-language disorders. Speech Language Therapists are certified in the assessment and treatment of communication disorders.

You can also consult with other professionals for their opinion such as the following:

- **Audiologist:** An audiologist is certified in assessing and treating hearing-related issues across all ages. If you feel your child has hearing loss, then you can consult an audiologist. They will make a referral to a speech therapist if your child has a speech delay.
- **Child psychologist:** A child psychologist is a professional trained to identify children with developmental conditions. You can check with

them if your child shows signs of delayed speech, social skills, and other developmental red flags. They will likely refer your child to a speech therapist if your child has a speech delay.

- **Developmental pediatrician:** A developmental pediatrician will guide and keep track of your child's speech and motor milestones. If they see any red flags, they will refer your child to a speech-language therapist.

GOOD LUCK