



## LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS

Trouble with speech and language are common and can cause learning and behavior challenges.

Having trouble with language or speech makes learning harder. Language and speech trouble can also make children act out. Speech and language challenges are called **Language Impairments**.

Schools must give free help to children with language impairments.

### How do I know if my child has a language impairment?

Language impairments can be hard to recognize. Children who have language challenges may feel embarrassed. They may not want people to know. Children may act out or break school rules to hide that they are having trouble.

Children with language impairments may:

- have more trouble understanding speech or writing than other children.
- have difficulty putting thoughts into words. Maybe they can draw or describe something but can't think of the word for it.
- not understand sarcasm, jokes, or figures of speech. They may only understand when instructions are very clear and direct.
- not read body language well.

### What should I do if I think my child is struggling with a language impairment?

If you believe that your child may have a language impairment, you should seek help.

- Talk with your child's teachers about your concerns.
- Ask your school to screen or evaluate your child and provide the services that your child needs.

### What can the school do?

Public schools can help. The school may screen your child for a language impairment. Ask the school to have a **Speech Language Pathologist** test your child. The school should work together with you to decide on a plan to help your child.