

Types of Communication Disorders: Facts and Figures

- **Articulation Disorders – impairment of the ability to articulate speech sounds.**
 - **The prevalence of speech sound disorders in young children is 8-9%. By the first grade, approximately 5% of children have noticeable speech disorders.**
- **Fluency Disorders – interruption in the flow of speaking characterized by atypical rate, rhythm and repetitions in sounds, syllables, words and phrases. This may be accompanied by excessive tension, struggle behavior and secondary characteristics.**
 - **The prevalence of fluency disorders in young children is 4-5%. The incidence is highest for children between the ages of 2 and 4 years.**
- **Voice Disorders – abnormal production of vocal quality, pitch, loudness and resonance compared to an individual's age and/or sex.**
 - **The prevalence of voice disorders in school-aged children is 6 to 23% with the majority demonstrating hoarseness. The most common cause of hoarseness is vocal nodules.**
- **Phonological Disorders – abnormal development of the sound system of a language and the rules that govern sound combinations. This results in difficulty producing age expected speech sounds.**
 - **The prevalence of phonological disorders in children is 8 to 9%.**
- **Language Disorders – impaired comprehension and/or use of spoken and written language. The disorder may include difficulty with:**
 - **Semantics - meaning of language**
 - **Syntax - grammatical construction of languages**
 - **Pragmatics - social use of language, includes conversational skills**
 - **Phonological Awareness – knowledge of the sound structure of language**
 - **Reading, Spelling and Writing**
 - **The prevalence of language disorders in preschool children is between 6-8%.**
 - **The prevalence of language disorders in early school-age children is between 2 to 8%.**
 - **The prevalence of reading disorders in school-age children is 17%.**
- **Apraxia – Difficulty in initiating and executing the movement patterns necessary to produce speech sounds when there is no paralysis or weakness of speech muscles. Thought to be due to difficulty with motor planning.**

- **Dysarthria – speech disorder due to paralysis, weakness or incoordination of speech muscles caused by central or peripheral nerve damage.**
- **Aphasia – a language disorder due to brain damage or disease. It can include difficulty with formulating, expressing and understanding language.**
- **Cleft Palate – birth defect in which there is an opening through the soft palate and the bony roof of the mouth. A cleft is surgically repaired in infancy. It may result in hypernasality and various articulation difficulties.**