

Language Delay and Disorder



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What is it?

A child with a receptive language delay/disorder has difficulty understanding what is being said to them. A child with an expressive language delay/disorder has trouble using words to communicate ideas. Children who have difficulty in both areas have a mixed receptive / expressive language delay or disorder.

Children with language delays have language skills that are not at age appropriate levels, but are developing slowly, and will eventually catch up. On the other hand, children with language disorders will show persistent difficulties with developing age appropriate language skills.

How can you help your child?

Face to Face

Get face to face with your child to promote attention and to allow your child to better see and hear your message.

Label

Name things that are within your child's environment. For example, if your child points to a ball, say "a ball!"

Give Choices

Ask your child to choose between 2 choices. "Do you want juice or milk?"

Break Down Directions

Give directions 1 step at a time. Provide support by showing your child what needs to be done.

Comment Often

Talk about what your child is doing while he/she is doing it. For example, say "You kicked the ball!" after your child kicks a ball. Talk about what you are doing while you are in action. For example say "I am cleaning up. Toys are going in the bin." while tidying around the house.

Books

Read books with your child everyday. Books are excellent for promoting vocabulary development and understanding/answering questions.

Use Visuals

Use of gestures (pointing,) signs, or pictures can support a child's understanding.

Expand

Add words to your child's productions. If your child says "ball," add a word to it that is appropriate within context. For example say, "yes, a red ball" or "throw ball!"

Play

Follow your child's lead and play with what they want to play with. Do what they want to do. Copy their play actions or teach them how to play with toys. Make sounds, comment, and talk during play.

Questions? Feel free to reach us!

Phone: 702.800.3391 | E-mail: hello@gotherapylv.com | Visit our website: gotherapylv.com
1481 W Warm Springs Rd Ste 138, Henderson, NV, 89014

