



## Expressive Language

Many children have difficulties learning and using spoken English. With all of the rules, irregularities and complexities of English, it's surprising that any of us have become proficient speakers.

When a child is having difficulty using words correctly and making proper sentences, it's often difficult for parents to know whether these errors are just part of normal language development or not.

If your child is having trouble mastering spoken language, here are some things you should know.

- Children who have difficulties with oral (spoken) language, are at an extremely high risk for having literacy (reading and writing) difficulties.
- Children who have difficulties expressing themselves are often judged as less intelligent than peers who have mastered spoken language. (In fact children who have spoken language difficulties often have average and above average intelligence).
- Children who have spoken language difficulties often find it difficult to tell others what they are thinking and feeling.
- Children with these difficulties sometimes miss out on developing close peer relationships.
- Children with spoken language difficulties run the risk of being teased and bullied at school.

Speech Pathologists are trained to assess, diagnose and treat all aspects of communication difficulties, including spoken language difficulties. Your speech pathologist can tell you whether your child's errors are a part of normal development or not.

If you are concerned about your child's spoken language contact a Speech Pathologist.

***Early detection is the key to preventing spoken language difficulties from becoming difficulties with reading and writing.***