
“[Specific Language Impairment] is one of the most common developmental disorders, affecting approximately 7 to 8 percent of children in kindergarten.”

National Institute on
Deafness & Other
Communication Disorders

Huddle up

At Huddle Up, we bring our specialist providers, children, school staff, and families together with high quality care that supports the whole community.

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Speech Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Mental Health Counseling
Resources & Education



LET'S LEARN MORE ABOUT

**SPECIFIC LANGUAGE
IMPAIRMENT**

ABOUT SLI

Specific Language Impairment (SLI) is a communication disorder affecting the development and use of language skills due to deficits in comprehension and/or production of language. It can occur without hearing loss, intellectual disabilities, or any other condition and can affect a child's speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills.

Signs of a language impairment include:

- Being a late talker
- Difficulty learning new words
- Difficulty following directions
- Frequent grammatical errors or spelling errors
- Limited use of complex sentences
- Difficulty finding the right words
- Poor reading skills
- Difficulty retelling stories
- Difficulty understanding figurative language



SUPPORT TIPS

Children with SLI benefit from therapy with a licensed speech therapist or other professional to help them overcome academic challenges.

If you know someone with SLI, the following can help them develop important speech skills:

- Restate a child's utterances by expanding their sentences and modeling accurate grammar (ex: restate "Me goed on the bus" to "Yes, I went to school on the bus!").
- Read, read, read! Reading books together is a great way to expand a child's language and vocabulary skills.
- Break down multiple step directions and give only one task at a time, or use visuals such as pictures so they can follow along.

FAST FACTS

- 50-70% of children with SLI have at least one family member with the disorder.
- A language impairment is not the same thing as a learning disability, but it can affect classroom performance, especially reading and writing.
- Children with language disorders may exhibit behaviors or social/emotional problems. What may appear to be negative behaviors may be a way they are trying to communicate.
- Language impairments may occur in the presence of other conditions, such as autism, ADHD, developmental delays, intellectual disabilities, hearing loss, etc.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [National Institute of Health](#)
- [American Speech, Language, Hearing Association](#)

FOR EXPERT HELP

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