

Delays & Disorders Explained – Receptive Language Delay –

A GUIDE FOR CAREGIVERS



WHAT IS RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE DELAY?

Receptive language delay is characterized by difficulties understanding and processing spoken or written language (i.e., instructions, directions, stories).

It can be challenging for children to follow what is being asked of them and the child may look defiant or non-compliant since they fail to follow through on instructions to carry out task.

WHAT ARE THE COMMON SIGNS?

For parents, it is essential to recognize that receptive language development can vary among children.

Signs of receptive language delay in a child may include:

- Struggling to follow instructions.
- Difficulty comprehending stories or conversations.
- Limited understanding of vocabulary and concepts appropriate for their age.
- Often asking for repetitions or clarification when spoken to.
- Appearing confused in social or academic situations.
- Having trouble responding appropriately to questions or requests.

*Early intervention is crucial for children with receptive language delay. Parents can seek guidance from **Speech-Language Pathologists** who are qualified in addressing language development. These professionals will assess the child's receptive language abilities and provide targeted therapy.*

WHAT DOES THERAPY FOR RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE DELAY INVOLVE?

Therapy for Receptive Language Delay often includes:

- Activities and exercises designed to improve comprehension, vocabulary, and listening skills.

WHAT CAN BE PRACTICED AT HOME?

Parents can play an active role by practicing these therapy exercises at home and creating a language-rich environment.

It is important for parents to be **patient** and **supportive**, as progress in receptive language development may take time. **Celebrating small achievements** and maintaining **consistency** in therapy and at home can be very motivating for the child.

Remember that every child is unique, and receptive language development can be influenced by various factors. Early identification of receptive language challenges and appropriate interventions can help children catch up with their peers and develop strong language comprehension skills, enhancing their communication and learning abilities. Parents should trust their instincts and seek guidance if they have concerns about their child's receptive language development.

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