

SPEECH/LANGUAGE FOR PROFESSIONALS



speech/language problems can impact one's ability to express an idea verbally or through written means of communication

LOOK FOR:

- Difficulty completing written/verbal tasks
- Trouble participating in conversation or reluctance to speak (*especially in group settings*)
- May appear easily frustrated, inattentive, or vague
- Difficulty retrieving words when speaking or writing
- Difficulty following directions or recalling what was said (*requesting repetition of information.*)
- Slowed/delayed speech or hypervocal (speaking rapidly, non-stop talking)



LANGUAGE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PROFESSIONALS

- Encourage verbal summary or paraphrase important information back to you
- Suggest recording key points on paper or by voice recording
- Give directions, or ask questions slowly, repeat if necessary, and allow additional time for response
- Add as much visual content as possible to communicate. (*e.g., instead of giving a hand-out with large blocks of text, use pictures, graphs or maps to convey as much of the relevant information as possible*)
- Abstract concepts and sarcasm can be difficult to understand, so aim to be concrete. *For example, try to stay away from figurative speech (e.g., “music to my ears”)*
- With seemingly negative social behavior (*e.g., inappropriate tone of voice, lack of eye contact, standing too close.*) Be patient, point out those problems, model prosocial cues, and have the individual practice
- Provide clear expectations and concise feedback
- Using alternative formats can help individuals express their thoughts and ideas more easily (*e.g., encourage use of art or music*)

CITATIONS

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