

Speech Language Impairment

Definition:

A child/student with a speech-language impairment shall have a communicative disorder which prevents the student from receiving reasonable educational benefit from general education.

Criteria:

The child/student meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Interference with oral and/or written communication in academic and social interactions in his/her primary language
- Demonstration of undesirable or inappropriate behavior as a result of limited communication skills.
- The inability to communicate without the use of assistive, augmentative/alternative communication devices or systems.

Speech-language impairment may be classified under the headings of articulation, fluency, voice, functional communication or delayed language development and shall mean a dysfunction in one or more of the following:

- Receptive and expressive language (oral and written) difficulties including syntax (word order, word form, developmental level), semantics (vocabulary, concepts and word finding), and pragmatics (purposes and uses of language).
- Auditory processing, including sensation (acuity), perception (discrimination, sequencing, analysis and synthesis) association and auditory attention.
- Deficiency of structure and function of oral peripheral mechanism
- Articulation including substitutions, omissions, distortions or additions of sound.
- Voice, including deviation of respiration, phonation (pitch, intensity, quality), and/or resonance
- Fluency, including hesitant speech, stuttering, cluttering and related disorders.
- Problems in auditory perception such as discrimination and memory.

CDE Resources and Information:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-SL.asp>

Additional Resources and Information:

<http://www.asha.org/public>

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association offers information and resources in an effort to ensure that all individuals with speech, language and hearing disorders receive services to help them communicate effectively.

<http://www.cshassoc.org/>

The Colorado Speech-Language Hearing Association offers information on conferences, links to consumer and professional resources in Colorado and a directory of services provided by CSHA members.