



## PREVALENCE

- 3-10% of children
- 3-4x more common in boys than girls

## RISK FACTORS

- Primary hearing deficit
- Secondary hearing deficit (e.g., recurrent acute otitis media, otitis media with effusion)
- Craniofacial abnormality
- Prematurity
- Low birthweight
- Family history
  
- Multi-lingual environment is not associated with speech/language delay

## ASSOCIATED CONDITIONS

- Autism spectrum disorder
- Cerebral palsy
- Hearing loss
- Intellectual disability

## MANAGEMENT

- Refer to speech language pathologist & audiologist ASAP
- Caregiver support for child's language development
  - Maintain eye contact with child
  - Encourage child to focus on caregivers articulating different sounds
  - Encourage child to vocalize their request, as opposed to anticipating their need and offering proactively

## IMPORTANT

- If delay is not properly addressed,
  - Higher risk for learning disability
  - Difficulty in reading and writing
  - Difficulty in school
- Timely intervention is key



## DIAGNOSIS

Failure to meet age-appropriate milestones

### SPEECH

- Delay in development of sound production

#### Example

- Stuttering
- Articulation challenges

### LANGUAGE

- Delay in development or use of language

#### Example

- Expressive language delay
- Receptive language delay
- Difficulty with grammar or vocabulary

## Milestones

Age	Speech / Language
6 mo	Responds to voice Babbles
1 yo	Follow <b>1</b> step commands Says <b>1</b> word (in addition to "mama", "dada")
2 yo	Follow <b>2</b> step commands 50+ words Says <b>2</b> -word combinations Speech ½ intelligible*
3 yo	Follow <b>3</b> step commands 200 words Says <b>3</b> -word combinations Speech ¾ intelligible*
4 yo	Follow <b>4</b> step commands Says <b>4</b> -word combinations (full sentences) Speech 100% intelligible* Intelligible to strangers

## RED FLAGS

- >6 mo: limited/no vocalization
- 12 mo: not turning to names or words
- 15 mo: no single words

