



Article published on April 11th 2012 | [Health](#)

The Daily Telegraph reported children starting kindergarten have speech skills of three-year-olds due to too much TV and lack of extended family. A quarter of these kindergarten students have poor language skills which hamper their ability to learn to read. NSW public school teacher and author of Teach Baby To Talk Sandra Smith said six to eight out of 30 children in each kindergarten have speech problems. They speak in sentence structures of three-year-olds instead of five-year-olds. According to the "Growing Up In Australia" study in 2010, 28% of boys and 19% of girls, aged eight to nine, were considered below average in language and literacy skills.

The Speech Pathology Association of Australia reported 20% of four- to five-year-old Australian children had speech difficulties. Professor Sharynne McLeod from Charles Sturt University, specialist in speech and language acquisition, said students with speech problems were likely to be bullied and not enjoy school. So if you notice your children exhibiting some speech difficulties or problems, seek a speech pathology professional to help your children cope with the developmental skills needed. Early intervention is the most efficient time for therapy and will provide the best outcome for these types of problems.

Child First Paediatric Therapy, a speech pathology, occupational therapy and physiotherapy centre in Pymble, has the latest assessment tools and quality programs to help meet your child's goals. Their therapists are dedicated in helping your child's physical, cognitive and social development. Together with their team of professionals, your child will enjoy their therapy and you will feel supported.

## Speech and Language Disorders to Look Out For

Below are some of the speech and language disorders you may want to remember as you observe your child's speech and language development. When you see some signs, it's better if you take your child to a therapist for a professional opinion or diagnosis.

☐ Speech disorders " when a child is unable to produce speech sounds correctly and fluently or has problems with his or her voice

o Articulation disorders " the child has difficulties in producing sounds, in syllables or saying words correctly. Listeners therefore can't or struggle to understand what's being said

o Fluency disorders " the child has problems such as stuttering, in which the flow of speech is interrupted by abnormal stoppages: repetitions (st-st-stuttering) or prolonging sounds and syllables (sssstuttering)

o Resonance or voice disorders " the child has problems with the pitch, volume, or quality of his or her voice that distract listeners from what's being said

o Dysphagia or oral feeding disorders " the child has difficulties with drooling, eating, and swallowing

☐ Language disorders " when a child has trouble understanding others or sharing his or her thoughts and ideas

o Receptive disorders " the child has difficulties:

☐ understanding or processing language

â€¢ understanding what is being said to them

o Expressive disorders â€“ the child has:

â€¢ difficulties putting words together

â€¢ limited vocabulary

â€¢ inability to use language in a socially appropriate way

â€¢ difficulties with verbal and written expression of language

â€¢ problems producing sentences

â€¢ trouble recalling words and vocabulary

To ensure that your childâ€™s speech problems are addressed properly and immediately, seek the help of a speech pathology professional, who can diagnose, manage and treat your childâ€™s difficulties.

Article Source:

<http://www.articleside.com/health-articles/a-speech-pathology-expert-can-help-your-child-s-speech-problems.htm> - [Article Side](#)

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Article Keywords:

Cerebral Palsy Therapy, Developmental Delay, Speech Pathology, Physiotherapy Sydney, Occupational Therapy

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