**What is a Language Disorder?**

We can have trouble with speech, language, or both. Having trouble understanding what others say is a receptive language disorder. Having problems sharing our thoughts, ideas, and feelings is an expressive language disorder. It is possible to have both a receptive and an expressive language problem.

**Language Disorders**

Children with language disorders do not understand and/or produce language (spoken and/or written) at the expected age levels.

A Receptive Language Disorder is when a child has difficulty understanding language. They have trouble comprehending when they listen or read. Problems with receptive language skills usually begin before age 4. An Expressive Language Disorder is when a child has difficulty talking or expressing his/her ideas. This difficulty in talking is not because of "how" they are speaking or saying the sounds (articulation), but because of "what" they are saying (form, content, and function). Children can have a receptive language delay, an expressive language delay, or both. A typical rule of thumb is that you comprehend more than you can speak.

Signs of a language disorder

· Started talking late

· Has a hard time following and/or giving directions

· Understanding questions is difficult (Example: Can't answer questions like  
who, what, where, when, why)

· Difficulty understanding jokes, double meanings, and abstract concepts

· Spoken language is simpler than their peers

· Limited vocabulary

· Incorrect grammar such as problems with pronouns (his/her), tense (goed/went), or plurals (mouses/mice)

· Has difficulty remembering words, including everyday ones like words in songs, nursery rhymes, days of the week, and people's names

· Uses non-specific words such as "stuff, thing" a lot

· Tells and writes stories that are disjointed (not connected well) and  
missing details

· Has trouble breaking language into its parts (Example: finding words in sentences or sounds in words)

· Has a hard time with social skills like taking turns, staying on topic, or saying when they don't understand

· Does not start conversations very often, quiet and less talkative than peers

· Phonological Awareness skills are weak

What causes language problems

Most children begin developing language naturally at birth. Hearing, seeing, understanding, and remembering are all skills that are necessary for learning language.  
  
Children also need to be able to form speech physically.  
  
Despite having all of these abilities, some children don't acquire language normally.

Language disorders are different than overall delayed language.

With delayed language, the child develops speech and language in the same way as other children, but later than expected.  
  
With language disorders, speech and language do not develop normally. The child may have some language skills, but not others. Or the way the skills develop is different than usual.