

RESOURCES

*How Deaf Children
Learn:
What Parents and
Teachers Need to Know*

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“Few things have as great an impact on a child-and in as many areas of development-as language skills.”

<http://www.gallaudet.edu/Images/Clerc/pdf/Full%20Document%20of%20ASDC%20Sign%20Language%20for%20All-English.pdf>

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Deaf Education at a glance...



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WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SPEECH AND LANGUAGE?

Language is a code whereby ideas about the world are represented through a conventional system of arbitrary signals for communication. Language consists of the following:

- *Semantics* - what words mean
- *Morphology* - how to make new words
- *Syntax* - how to put words together
- *Pragmatics* - what word combinations are best in what situation

Language has two components:

- Receptive Language - what we *know*
- Expressive Language - what we can *say* (through speaking, signing, or writing)

Speech is the verbal means of communicating. Speech consists of the following:

- *Articulation* - the production of vowels and consonants by the mouth
- *Voice* - the way in which people use their vocal folds to change the type of voice they can produce
- *Fluency* - the smoothness of flow with which sounds, syllables, words, and phrases are joined together when speaking

Children who are deaf/hard of hearing have unique issues that impact their ability to develop age-appropriate *language* skills. While the focus is often speech development, it is vital that we address the deeper issue of semantic *language* development for these children.

A full comprehensive speech/language evaluation is the only way to determine where a D/HH student is functioning. It is important to not only assess the student's ability to comprehend and name vocabulary, but the depth of language (functions, associations, categorizations, attributes, etc.) as well .

KSD Outreach Mission: To provide the highest quality of services, resources, and support to children ages birth-21 who are deaf/hard of hearing by collaborating with their families, their communities, and the professionals that serve them.