



ARTICULATION DISORDERS

What is an articulation disorder?

- Articulation disorders may also be known as speech sound disorders or phonological disorders
- Different speech sounds and speech patterns are acquired at different ages.
- Disorders refer to those errors that are no longer developmentally appropriate*
- Speech sound errors can occur at the single word and/or conversation level
- Speech sound errors can include deletions, substitutions, additions, distortions

*Who should be evaluated for an a*refer to ASHA's developmental norms for speech sounds articulation disorder?

Who should be evaluated for an articulation disorder?

- Any individual of speaking age who has difficulty being understood by familiar listeners
- Any individual who is not producing age-appropriate sounds

When should an individual be evaluated for an articulation disorder?

- Whenever a parent has concerns about a child's intelligibility
- Whenever a familiar listener has concerns about a child's intelligibility
- Whenever an individual has concerns about his/her own intelligibility

Where can an individual be evaluated for an articulation disorder?

- Children who are not yet attending school can be evaluated at their local county Intermediate Unit
- Children who are attending school can be evaluated by their school building's speech therapist
- Families can also seek evaluations from children's hospitals
- Families can also seek evaluations from student therapists at local universities with speech programs
- Families can also contact private speech therapists/clinics for evaluations

Why should an individual be evaluated/receive therapy for an articulation disorder?

- Articulation disorders can prohibit children from being understood by peers and teachers, preventing full participation in academics
- Children may become embarrassed by their articulation disorders and refuse to participate in class and in conversations with peers
- Articulation disorders may impact language and reading development/skills

How do I help an individual with an articulation disorder who is receiving therapy?

- Talk about your child's speech therapy goals with them and the techniques they've learned but avoid frustrating them
- Encourage correct speech sound production when in 1:1 conversation
- Encourage slower rate of speech to achieve higher intelligibility
- Offer/complete daily speech homework with child to promote generalization of skills learned in therapy
- Make daily practice fun (e.g., hunt for items with the sound, make silly sentences with the sound, pair favorite games with practice)
- Use tools such as mirrors to help children see how their mouth, teeth, and tongue should be placed for sounds
- Use a hierarchy of support to practice (isolated sound, syllable, word, phrase, sentence, reading, conversation)