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LANGUAGE DELAYS AND DISORDERS

LANGUAGE DELAYS VS DISORDERS?

Delays: Child's language developing slower than their peers' but eventually they catch up.

Disorders: Child's language developing slower but also in an atypical manner. Language disorder is a lifelong language difficulty. May also turn into a learning disability since academics is so language focussed.

Delays/disorders can be in either receptive (understanding) and/or expressive (spoken) language. .

WHY ASSESS FOR DELAYS/DISORDERS?

Can be stressful for parents/educators if they don't know why a child is behaving and speaking differently (or not speaking at all!).

If we know what is going on, the educators and carers can get specific baselines and recommendations about how to help the child.

WILL MY CHILD CATCH UP?

With language delays in young children, it is hard to know if they will. However, seeking help early is key. The earlier we intervene, the more success we will get.

WHAT CAUSES LANGUAGE DELAYS/DISORDERS?

Hearing difficulties.
Developmental language disorder, a learning disability that causes the brain to learn differently.
Intellectual Disability
Developmental disabilities (Down Syndrome, Autism, Microcephaly, etc.)
Speech Sound Disorders

WHO DIAGNOSES THIS?

A Speech-Language Pathologist

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY CHILD IS DIAGNOSED WITH A LANGUAGE DELAY/DISORDER?

IMPORTANT STEPS:

1. Seek help from a Speech-Language Pathologist as soon as possible.
2. Inform carers and school teachers, and ask for suggestions on how to work together to help your child.
3. Sometimes significant language delays can be isolating and create anxiety. Surround yourself with a good support group. If your child displays low self-esteem/anxiety seek a Child Psychologist ASAP.

FREQUENCY OF SPEECH THERAPY

Weekly is the most highly recommended. This may not be viable. Fortnightly therapy is the minimum. Home practice and follow up are crucial.
Therapy duration runs from 30 minutes - 1 hour

FUNDING

- Private Health (check with your provider)
- Medicare rebates: your General Practitioner determines if your child is eligible for the Enhanced Primary Care Plan

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**Disclaimer: every effort has been made to ensure the information here is correct. However, there may be some errors due to updates and changes in government policy/funding. It is up to the families to confirm the information with the relevant government bodies.*

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