



A CHECKLIST OF STUTTERING AND NORMAL DYSFLUENCY

Between the ages of two and four the bulk of a child's speech and language development is complete. Also, at this time, speech fluency skills are developing. Fluency is smooth and effortless speech. As children develop there may be a disruption in fluency skills due to the complex language being established.

That is, as the child's sentences become longer and more complex, he may use sound and word repetitions, interject sounds like "ah" and pause frequently. These are dysfluencies. Determining when these are a part of the child's normal development or signs of stuttering may be difficult.

The following checklist is provided to determine whether a child's fluency is normal or a problem. The presence of one to two of the stuttering characteristics suggests the need for further evaluation by a licensed Speech and Language Pathologist.

STUTTERING CHARACTERISTICS

NORMAL FLUENT SPEECH

Two dysfluencies or more per 100 words (2% or greater).

Less than two dysfluencies per 100 words (less than 2%).

Repeats initial sound or syllable of words ("M,M,M,My")

Repeats words or phrases (My name, My name).

Prolong sound ("MMMy name) generally accompanied with struggle behavior.

Generally, does not prolong sounds.

Gaps of stoppages of speech within words ("My (pause) name is Paul").

Pauses before words of phrases ("(pause) My name is Paul").

Physical signs of struggling behavior during speaking situations.

No apparent struggle during dysfluent periods.

Appears to avoid certain communicative situations (ie. talking on the telephone).

Has no anxiety about talking.

*Please note another important consideration is that a family history of stuttering may contribute to your child's speech being a problem.