



Glossary: Definitions of common speech pathology words

Articles	A word such as <i>a, an, or, the</i> that is used with a noun to show a specific person or thing
Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)	Using tools or devices to help a person communicate their message. These can be high tech (for example an iPad or a Lightwriter) or low tech (an alphabet board or using pictures)
Auxiliary verbs	Verbs such as <i>have, be, may, shall, can</i> modify the meaning of other verbs in a sentence to show tense or form a question
Aphasia/dysphasia	An acquired difficulty with language, usually after a stroke or brain injury. Aphasia can affect speaking, listening, reading and/or writing. It does not affect intelligence
Articulation	The way the lips, tongue, palate and jaw move to create speech sounds
Binary choice	Giving the choice between two objects, pictures or words
Childhood apraxia of speech (CAS)	Difficulties planning the movements of the lips, tongue, palate and jaw to create speech sounds
Communication	Exchanging messages between two or more people. Communication can occur by talking, writing, reading, gesturing, signing, facial expressions and many other means
Conjunctions	A joining word such as <i>and, because, then</i> that combines words, phrases or sentences together
Descriptive language	Vivid and colourful language that describes a person, place or thing in a way that formulates a picture in the mind of a reader
Dysarthria	Speech that sounds slurred, and is usually caused by muscle weakness
Dysphagia	Difficulty swallowing, which can include food, drink, and/or saliva
Dysphonia	A different sounding voice, for example hoarse or husky
Dyspraxia	Difficulty planning and coordinating motor movements, including movements of the mouth, or hand movements
Emotion	A feeling, for example <i>love, anger or joy</i>
Expansion	Restate and complete a child's sentence to how an adult would say the sentence
Expressive language	Using words and sentences to express meaning to others, usually by talking or writing
Focused stimulation	Repeat a word or phrase many times in conversation to increase comprehension and promote language use

Grammar	The rules for the way words are chosen and ordered to form sentences
Language	Can refer to the content of what we say, or the system of how we say it, such as English or Chinese. Language can be verbal (spoken words or sentences), or non-verbal (writing, signing, gestures)
Literacy	The skills for reading and writing
Modelling	Demonstrating how to use a word, phrase or sentence
Narrative	A flow of language, spoken or written, for example telling or retelling a story or sequence of events
Negation	A negative statement that might use words such as <i>no, don't, can't</i>
Paediatric feeding	Children's eating and drinking skills. This includes sucking (breast or bottle) or starting solids
Parallel talk	Describing what children can see, hear or are doing as they do it
Phonological awareness	The ability to hear and manipulate speech sounds within words
Phonological process/pattern	An error pattern featuring replacement of one speech sound or group of speech sounds with another
Pragmatics	The social way in which language is used. Pragmatics includes eye contact, turn taking, how loudly someone talks, how close they stand, the appropriateness of topic, and topic maintenance.
Recasting	To give information in a different way
Receptive language	Understanding the words, sentences and gestures of other people
Recount	To retell something that has happened
Requesting	To ask for something
Self talk	An adult talks about what they are doing while a child is observing, for example during cooking, or playing with playdough
Semantics	The content and meaning of a person's language
Syllable	The beats a word can be broken into. For example, <i>daddy</i> has 2 syllables <i>da-di</i> and <i>hippopotamus</i> has 5 syllables <i>hip-po-po-ta-mus</i>
Verb	Action word or doing word (e.g., The children are <i>playing</i> a game)
Vocabulary	Words that make up a language. All of the words known and used by a person
Voice	The sound produced by the vocal cords
Vocal quality	The type of sound produced by the vocal cords. For example, <i>hoarse, husky, rough, breathy</i> or <i>strained</i>
Working memory	Ability to be given information, store it and recall it at a later time. For example going to the grocery store without a list and recalling what is needed

Ask your speech pathologist (or other health professional) if you would like further information.