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Vlinder Connections

There is so much in life to hear

Prevention of noise-induced hearing loss is of growing importance with skyrocketing use of personal audio technology among kids. Many children have access to smart phones, tablets, and other devices—and use these with headphones or ear buds at high volumes (and for long periods of time). 1 in 5 kids ages 12-19 is suffering from hearing loss.

It is important to teach safe listening habits to children. These include listening at half volume and taking listening breaks. It is also key to model this behavior — practice what you preach. You can find helpful resources from the **Listen To Your Buds** campaign (an initiative of ASHA), at www.facebook.com/listentoyourbuds



Vlinder Communication Therapies, PLLC

Speech & Language, AAC, and Communication-based Behavior services for children with communication challenges

Language: The “L” in SLP



Did you know that speech disorders are only a small part of what the field of speech-language pathology covers? Yes, some speech-language pathologists (SLPs) do choose to specialize in speech (e.g. focus on treating stuttering or apraxia of speech). In reality though, speech only makes up a small part of what I do as an SLP.

The “L” in SLP stands for *language*. While *speech* refers to the physical act of speaking - the sound that comes out of our mouths to form words - *language* encompasses the message of what we say. Language is primarily what I treat.

Language can be broken down into four main areas:

RECEPTIVE: oral (the ability to understand what others say) and written (the ability to understand text)

EXPRESSIVE: oral (the ability to express your message orally/via AAC) and written (the ability to express your message via text)

Within each of these four areas, language disorders can involve the **form**, **content** and/or **use** of language:

FORM (phonology, morphology, syntax): what we think of as grammar

CONTENT (semantics): the meaning conveyed by words, phrases, sentences

USE (pragmatics): how language is used in context and the rules governing what is socially appropriate

Language development begins at birth and continues through adolescence (vocabulary development continues throughout our lives). If a child has a language problem, it is likely to have a significant effect on his/her social and academic skills, and behavior. The earlier language problems are identified and treated, the less likely it is that problems will persist or get worse. Early language intervention can help children be more successful with communicating, reading, writing, schoolwork, and interpersonal relationships.

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Reflections

Speech and language skills do not come naturally to every child. Some children need a different approach and specialized intervention. Earlier intervention can make a difference! A speech-language pathologist can assess to determine if a child's "problem" is a normal stage of development or a speech or language disorder. **Don't wait.** If you have concerns, **trust your "gut"**. Help is available! Seeking the professional opinion of a speech-language pathologist can put your mind at ease, or put you on the path to finding the help your child needs.

For more information, visit: identifythesigns.org
www.asha.org
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