

Language disorder

is real.

Language disorder involves trouble using language, understanding language, or both. Signs can appear early, and kids are diagnosed as young as age 4.

affects expression.

Expressive language disorder isn't a pronunciation problem or a speech disorder. It involves trouble learning new words and grammar rules.

isn't "mis-hearing."

Language disorder doesn't make it hard to hear but rather to understand what is said. Trouble processing this kind of information is called **receptive language disorder**.

Language disorder is not a problem of intelligence, speech, or hearing.

Trouble areas

- Learning new words
- Advancing beyond short sentences
- Using the correct verb tense
- Telling a story sequentially
- Understanding what people say
- Following directions
- Participating in conversations
- Staying on topic or "tuned in"
- Getting puns and jokes

Ways to help

1. Step-by-step directions, checklists, and other tools that break down information
2. Speech therapy to help use longer sentences and tell stories sequentially
3. Empathy and support to help cope with social challenges