

Speech or Language Disabilities

Some people have problems communicating. It could be due to cerebral palsy, hearing loss or another condition that:

- Makes it difficult to pronounce words
- Causes slurring or stuttering
- Prevents someone from expressing themselves or understanding written or spoken language.

Using words	
Don't say	Say
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stutterer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a person who stutters• a person with a communication disorder

Some people who have severe difficulties may use communication boards or other assistive devices.

Tips on how to interact with people with speech or language disabilities

- Just because a person has one disability doesn't mean they have another. For example, if a person has difficulty speaking, don't assume they have an intellectual or developmental disability as well.
- If you don't understand, ask the person to repeat the information.
- If possible, ask questions that can be answered 'yes' or 'no.'
- Be patient and polite. Give the person whatever time they need to get their point across.
- Don't interrupt or finish the person's sentences. Wait for them to finish.
- Patience, respect and a willingness to find a way to communicate are your best tools.