

My Child has Trouble Understanding: A Receptive Language Disorder

- What is a "Receptive Language" Disorder?
 - This means your child has trouble understanding what is said to him.
 - It is also called a "central auditory processing disorder" or "auditory comprehension deficit".
 - In most cases, a child with a receptive language problem also has an expressive language disorder, which means he has trouble using spoken language.
 - It is estimated that 3-5% of children have trouble understanding or expressing themselves, or both.
 - The cause is unexplained in most cases.
- What is "Understanding"?.
 - Understanding involves listening to someone talk and attaching meaning to what you hear.
 - Listening and understanding are critical for success with learning, reading, writing, and speaking well.
 - Being able to listen and understand are skills that develops gradually but there are things we can do to help the process.
- Warning signs that your child may have trouble understanding include:
 - Not answering when spoken to.
 - Being easily distracted.
 - Being over-active/high activity level.
 - Being confused.
 - Being "shy."
 - Having trouble following directions in the proper order or only finishing part of what you asked him to do. Following routine, repetitive directions may be fine.
 - Repeating back words or sentences right away or at a later time.
 - Inappropriate or off-topic answers to questions.
 - Repeating a question back first and then answering it.
 - Using "memorized" sentences (e.g., "To infinite and beyond!")
- When your child is having difficulty understanding, you need to get his hearing checked. This can be done by an Audiologist or an Ear, Nose, and Throat Doctor (ENT).

Reference: "Help Your Child Communicate by Improving Listening Skills" – Handout - Peel Preschool Speech and Language Program;
http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcarticles.nsf/pages/Receptive_language_disorder? – Internet;
<http://www.kidspeech.com/index.php?page=79> – Internet.