



Expressive and Receptive Language

Language refers to the way people share information with one another. Language can be broken down into expressive and receptive language. Expressive language is the ability to put thoughts into understandable words and sentences. Receptive language is the ability to take in and understand information.

Keywords: *expressive language, receptive language*

Expressive Language	Receptive Language
<p>Definition:</p> <p>The ability to express oneself. This may be using speech, writing gesture, communication board or other form of expression.</p> <p>Expressive language allows individuals to inform others of their thoughts, wants and needs. Expressive language also assists individuals in creating positive interactions and relationships with others.</p>	<p>Definition</p> <p>The ability to understand language. This may be listening, reading or understanding other forms of communication such as sign language or Braille.</p> <p>Individuals are required to process and understand information gathered from what they see and hear.</p>
<p>Red Flags</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of short sentences • Limited vocabulary • Using non-specific words (e.g. thingy, that) • Trouble finding the right word to say • Difficulty learning new words • Repeating others • Difficulty changing tense (unable to change from present to past tense) by 6 years of age 	<p>Red Flags</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not following instructions that peers of same age can typically follow • Responds to questions by repeating, rather than giving an answer • Not seeming to listen when spoken to • Reduced attention in group settings • Lacks interest in storybooks when read to them

Impacts of Expressive and Receptive Language Difficulties

- Difficulty in literacy tasks including reading and writing
- Difficulties following and giving instructions and information
- Reduced ability to maintain attention and focus in classroom tasks
- Reduced academic performance
- Pragmatic and social skill difficulties including giving eye contact and reading non-verbal cues
- Reasoning and problem solving
- Difficulty understanding, sequencing and producing narratives



Want to learn more?

To learn more about Language Disorder and how to support children and young people for whom language is their primary disorder, please **contact us**.

Language Disorder Australia provides holistic, innovative and effective therapy, education and support services and has a transdisciplinary team of speech pathologists, occupational therapists, educators, psychologists and physiotherapists.

Contact: 1300 881 763 or hello@languagedisorder.org.au

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