Speech & Language Information for Kindergarten

How Does a Student Qualify?

According to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: Students can receive speech/language services in several different areas. In all areas, the delay must significantly affect the student’s educational performance or social or emotional development.

* Language: In order to qualify for speech/language services to address language delays, students must receive scores at or below 1.75 standard deviations (SD) on formal test measures. Further, the language delay must negatively impact oral communication.
* Speech Sound Production: In order to qualify, a student must perform at or below 1.75 SD on a test of articulation or be unable to produce speech sounds when 90% of his or her peers are able to produce the sound. These delays must also negatively impact the intelligibility (clarity) of the student’s speech.
* Voice: Vocal impairment not due to short-term factors.
* Fluency: To qualify for services, the student must display speaking characteristics of a fluency disorder, such as part or whole-word repetition and prolongation of sounds.

What is Expected of a Kindergarten Student?

According to guidelines set by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association: By the end of Kindergarten, students should be able to do the following:

Listening

* Follow 1-2 simple directions in a sequence
* Listen to and understand age-appropriate stories read aloud
* Follow a simple conversation

Speaking

* Answer simple "yes/no" and open-ended questions
* Retell a story or talk about an event
* Participate appropriately in conversations
* Show interest in and start conversations