

Act Today: Get Help

Are you, a family member, or a friend having difficulty speaking or hearing?

Neither you nor they have to struggle alone or think your quality of life can't improve.

Visit **www.IdentifyTheSigns.org** and click "Find a Professional" to locate speech-language pathologists (SLPs) or audiologists in your area.

When you seek professional help, look for a SLP or audiologist who has earned the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) from ASHA.

ASHA-certified SLPs have "CCC-SLP" after their names. ASHA-certified audiologists have "CCC-A."

In addition to the CCC, a qualified SLP or audiologist has

- a master's degree or doctoral degree
- a state license
- and participates in continuing education activities.

Also, free public services for school-age children are available through public school systems. Parents should contact their local public school for information about early intervention programs.



About the American Speech-Language- Hearing Association

ASHA is the national professional, scientific, and credentialing association for more than 166,000 audiologists, speech-language pathologists, speech, language, and hearing scientists, audiology and speech-language pathology support personnel, and students. Audiologists specialize in preventing and assessing hearing and balance disorders as well as providing audiologic treatment, including hearing aids. Speech-language pathologists identify, assess, and treat speech and language problems, including swallowing disorders. www.asha.org.

THE **SIGNS**
DISORDERS

A Public
Education
Campaign

IDENTIFY
OF COMMUNICATION

www.IdentifyTheSigns.org

Act Today:
Learn The Signs

IDENTIFY THE SIGNS

Act Today:
Spread The Word

Communication disorders are treatable. But the longer they are overlooked or ignored, the harder they become to treat.

Visit www.IdentifyTheSigns.org to learn about the signs of communication disorders.

You will find easy-to-navigate information about

- what parents should look for in the communication development of very young children
- how to identify the signs of hearing loss that may explain why a spouse or partner is having trouble conversing
- other signs of various communication disorders that affect all ages.



Lack of knowledge about the signs of communication disorders is a barrier to care. To reverse that, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) has launched a public education campaign: **IDENTIFY THE SIGNS** www.IdentifyTheSigns.org.

Millions of Americans have difficulty speaking and hearing. Millions more—family and friends—are impacted, too.

The disorders take different forms and span all ages.

Social isolation, academic and employment difficulties, and struggles with daily activities frequently result.

Early Detection Is Key

You can play an important role informing your family, friends, and social networks about the signs of communication disorders.

ASHA member speech-language pathologists and audiologists report only a small percentage of the public they treat is aware of the importance of early detection of communication disorders.

Moreover, a significant percentage of speech-language pathologists report it can be as long as 2 years before a speech delay in children is not only detected but also acted upon.

And polling has shown that a significant percentage of AARP members—millions of older Americans—have untreated hearing loss. Also, researchers have identified hearing loss as a contributor to dementia.