



What is Stuttering?

Stuttering is a communication disorder in which the flow of speech is broken by repetitions (li-li-like this), prolongations (lllllike this), or abnormal stoppages (no sound) of sounds and syllables. There may also be unusual facial and body movements associated with the effort to speak. Stuttering is also referred to as stammering.

What Causes Stuttering?

There are four factors most likely to contribute to the development of stuttering: genetics (approximately 60% of those who stutter have a family member who does also); child development (children with other speech and language problems or developmental delays are more likely to stutter); neurophysiology (recent neurological research has shown that people who stutter process speech and language slightly differently than those who do not stutter); and family dynamics (high expectations and fast-paced lifestyles can contribute to stuttering).

Risk Factor Chart		
Place a check next to each that is true for the child		
Risk Factor	Elevated Risk	True for Child
Family history of stuttering	A parent, sibling, or other family member who still stutters	
Age at onset	After age 3½	
Time since onset	Stuttering 6–12 months or longer	
Gender	Male	
Other speech production concerns	Speech sound errors or trouble being understood	
Language skills	Advanced, delayed, or disordered	

From the Stuttering Foundation

How is Treatment at Speech Plus Different?

Speech Plus Executive Director, Valerie Thompson, is a Board Certified Specialist in Fluency and Fluency Disorders. During her Specialist candidacy, Valerie was mentored by renowned stuttering expert and author, J. Scott Yaruss. Valerie treats both children and adults with fluency disorders.

STUTTERING THERAPY



Why is Board Certification Important?

Not all speech-language pathologists have training in the treatment of Stuttering. Board Certified Specialists in Fluency are individuals who hold their Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) awarded by the American Speech Language Hearing Association and have demonstrated a high level of knowledge and clinical expertise in diagnosing and treating individuals with fluency disorders.

How Do I Get Started?

Call Speech Plus to discuss your concerns. If warranted, a stuttering evaluation will be scheduled to assess the severity of the fluency disorder and develop a customized treatment plan.

For additional information, call Speech Plus at 815-464-6069.

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