



## SPEECH DEFICIENCIES IN CHILDREN WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS

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**Abstract;** This article discusses the causes of speech deficiencies in children with hearing impairments, the progression of these issues, and the specific characteristics of the speech of children with auditory analyzer dysfunctions. It provides detailed information about the speech therapy activities carried out with children who have hearing impairments.

**Keywords:** Phonetic-phonemic, correctional, dysgraphia, receptive speech, speech therapy work.

### The Role of Hearing Ability and its Impact on Speech Development

Hearing is one of the vital sensory functions of a person through which we interact with the environment, acquire knowledge, and gain experience. A decrease or complete loss of hearing ability directly affects the development of a child's speech. Hearing Impairment and its Influence on Speech Development Children with underdeveloped hearing abilities usually face difficulties in correct pronunciation of words, constructing sentences, and comprehending speech. This is because speech formation predominantly occurs through auditory perception. The more severe the hearing impairment, the more pronounced the speech deficiencies become.

**Causes of Hearing Impairment and Speech Deficiencies** Hearing impairments can result from various factors. These factors may occur before birth (prenatal), during the birth process (perinatal), or after birth (postnatal).

#### 1. Prenatal Causes (Before Birth):



These are factors that occur before birth, during the fetal development stage. They may include: Genetic (hereditary) factors: If parents or close relatives have hearing problems, there is an increased risk for the child as well.

Maternal infectious diseases during pregnancy: Diseases such as measles, rubella, influenza, cytomegalovirus, and toxoplasmosis can damage the fetus's auditory nerves.

Developmental abnormalities in the fetus: Anomalies in the development of the inner ear can negatively affect the child's hearing ability. Exposure to harmful substances during pregnancy: Consumption of alcohol, use of narcotic substances, or certain medications during pregnancy can damage the fetus's hearing system.

## **2. Causes During Birth (Perinatal Causes):**

Sometimes hearing impairments arise due to complications during the birth process: Difficult or complicated labor: Lack of oxygen (hypoxia) during childbirth can damage the brain and auditory nerves of the newborn. Instrumental delivery (use of forceps or vacuum extraction): In some cases, the use of such tools may cause injury to the inner ear or nervous system.

Premature birth: Babies born prematurely may have underdeveloped auditory systems, making them more vulnerable to hearing loss.

## **3. Postnatal Causes (After Birth):**

Various factors after birth can also lead to hearing impairments: High fever and severe infections: Diseases such as meningitis, otitis (middle ear infection), and encephalitis can damage the auditory nerves. Middle ear diseases: Frequent occurrences of otitis or ear infections can cause a decrease in hearing ability.

Ototoxic effects of certain medications: Some antibiotics (such as gentamicin) and exposure to certain chemical substances can cause hearing loss.

Head and ear injuries – If a child has a head injury or a severe blow to the ear, this can affect their hearing.

Loud noise or sound exposure – Very loud sounds (explosions, music, or other noises) can damage the auditory nerve and cause hearing loss.

In cases of early and severe hearing loss, children's vocabulary development is so delayed that many of them come to school with only a few words. However, even with mild hearing loss, the vocabulary of speech is usually impaired in hearing-impaired children. One of the important manifestations of speech underdevelopment



in hearing impaired people is the incorrect use of agrammatisms (agrammatism is a speech disorder accompanied by a violation of grammatical structures, i.e. nouns, adjectives, word groups). The lack of clarity of auditory perception prevents the child from mastering the correct grammatical form of a word.

### Speech defects

As a result of hearing impairment, the child cannot master speech correctly. This is due to the following reasons:

1. Incorrect perception of sounds - Since the child does not hear words completely, he does not learn to pronounce them correctly.
2. Low vocabulary - Children with hearing problems have difficulty mastering new words.
3. Grammatical errors - They may construct sentences grammatically incorrectly or may not be able to form a sentence completely.
4. Pronunciation problems – There are cases of incorrect pronunciation of individual sounds or entire words.
5. Communication difficulties – Such children may not be able to communicate freely with other people.

Gross deficiencies in sensory (hearing and vision) and mental development in children, movement disorders observed in cerebral palsy, lead to underdevelopment of children's speech (pronunciation, lexical and grammatical) and require individual use of corrective methods of influence.

Speech therapy gives effective results in work with hearing-impaired children with partial hearing loss. The problems of speech formation in children with hearing impairments were studied in the scientific works of I.M. Solovyova, F.F. Rau, N.I. Shif, S.A. Zikov, T.V. Rozonova. According to scientists, "hearing impairment is such a decrease in hearing that it causes difficulties in perceiving speech. Under specially created conditions (amplifying the voice, bringing the speaker directly to the ear, using sound amplification devices), communication occurs with the help of hearing.

The influence of hearing on speech. Hearing is of decisive importance in the formation of speech. Children learn language by hearing the sounds of speech around them. Speech development in children with hearing impairments is slowed down or disrupted for the following reasons:



- Complete or partial inability to hear sounds - impaired phonemic hearing. Incorrect perception of speech sounds - phonetic-phonological deficiencies.
- Limited vocabulary - although the passive vocabulary is large, the active vocabulary is small. Insufficient development of grammatical structures - problems in constructing sentences.

#### Main types of speech defects

##### a) Silence (mutism) or very weak voice Speaking

If the hearing impairment is severe, the child may not speak at all. Some children speak in a very low voice and are incomprehensible.

b) Articulation disorders Incorrect pronunciation of some sounds due to insufficient development of the speech organs. For example, incorrect pronunciation of the letters "r" and "l", omission of consonants.

c) Limited vocabulary: Due to limited ability to learn words by hearing, the vocabulary is limited. Speech limited to simple words, difficulty understanding abstract concepts

#### Phonetic and phonemic disorders

3 main forms of sound pronunciation disorders in hearing impaired people can be distinguished:

1. Insufficiency of the sensory part of the speech apparatus, that is, incomplete functioning of the auditory analyzer, it is characteristic to replace one speech sound with another (cherry, instead of cherry, shtol instead of table). Distortion of sounds is observed somewhat less often than substitution.
2. As a result of insufficiency of the motor part of the speech apparatus, that is, defects in the structure or functioning of the articulatory organs. The disorder is usually expressed by incorrect pronunciation of sounds. (Tisharo S )
3. Mixed sound pronunciation disorders based on both sensory and motor deficiencies at the same time. In such cases, while the defects in the pronunciation of some sounds in a child are associated with the inability to distinguish similar phonemes (S-Z) by hearing, the defects in the pronunciation of other sounds are due to defects in the structure or functioning of the articulatory apparatus. For example, the distorted pronunciation of the sound R is due to the shortness of the lingual frenulum or due to paralysis of the interdental s muscles of the tip of the tongue.



With early and pronounced hearing loss, children's vocabulary development lags behind the norm to such an extent that many of them come to school with only a few words of their own. Even with mild hearing loss, the vocabulary of the word is impaired in hearing impaired children.

Helping children with hearing impairments develop speech

**1. Working with deaf teachers**

Specialized specialists take an individual approach to the child and help him develop his speech. Such classes are aimed at correct pronunciation of sounds, increasing vocabulary, and developing communication skills.

2. Using hearing aids. Cochlear implants and hearing aids help the child perceive sounds better, which has a positive effect on his speech acquisition.

3. Visual learning methods. Hearing teachers and speech therapists help the child develop his speech by studying special pictures, sign language, and lip movements.

4. Family support. Parents should encourage the child to communicate and contribute to his speech development through constant communication.

**Conclusion**

Speech deficits in children with hearing impairments manifest themselves in various forms. To eliminate these problems, early diagnosis, special pedagogical approaches and the use of hearing aids are important. Also, family Speech deficits in and community support play a major role in the child's speech development. If the right approach is used, children with hearing impairments can also acquire full communication skills.

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