

Some important points to remember:

Stuttering is a physical disorder,
not an emotional one.



Ignoring stuttering will not help it go away.



Stuttering can, and should, be treated
in the preschool years.



Parents should seek advice from a speech
pathologist as soon as they
think that their child might be stuttering.



Parents play an important part in the
treatment of stuttering.

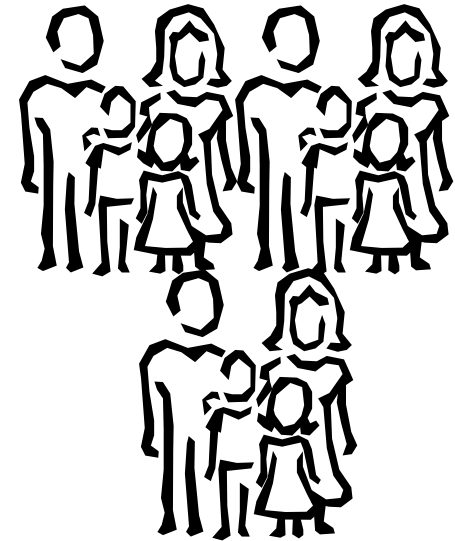


Treatment is simple, effective and
enjoyable for parents and children.



Stuttering

In the First Years of Life



Basic Information

Stuttering is a speech disorder, which causes people to have difficulty talking.
They may:

- **Repeat sounds** or words
e.g. “D-d-d- daddy”
or “Mum-mum-mum-mummy”.
- **Prolong sounds**
e.g. “Whaaaaaaaat’s that one?”
- **Get stuck** or “block”, that is, silence
as they try to speak.

Stuttering may start gradually or suddenly. It usually begins in the early years of life, soon after a child starts to talk. Stuttering nearly always starts before a child reaches 5 years.

Research has shown that it is important to treat stuttering during the first years of life. As soon as parents notice that their child may be stuttering, they should contact a speech pathologist. Speech pathologists can be found at most community health centres and public hospitals and in private practices. Your local Early Childhood Clinic, preschool or doctor can put you in touch with speech pathologists in your area.

FALSE

Stuttering is a normal part of a young child’s.....
speech development.

All children grow out of stuttering

Stuttering is caused by the way parents.....
bring up their children.

Children stutter because they are nervous and shy.....

Therapy for stuttering does not help.....

TRUE

Stuttering is a speech disorder and is not part of normal
speech and language development.

Some will stop stuttering without ever needing therapy
from a clinic. Many will continue to stutter and will
require professional help. At present we are unable to
tell whether a child will recover without help.
Remember that most adults who stutter began when they
were very young.

Parents are the best people to help their children recover
from stuttering. It is a physical condition which often
runs in families.

Children who stutter are just like other children, except
that they sometimes have trouble talking.

Treatment for childhood stuttering is simple, fun and
effective.

