



COMMON MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Adapted from Various Sources

This is a list of common medical conditions that are referred to occupational, physical, or speech therapy professionals. Some children may be required to see one therapy professional. Therapeutic professionals may refer children to other disciplines when other conditions are noted during an evaluation or in treatment sessions.

Allergies: an immune response or reaction to substances that are usually not harmful; food allergies could lead to feeding issues and oral motor delays as well as malnutrition

Ankyloglossia: limited movement of the tongue due to abnormal shortness of the lingual frenum; commonly referred to as tongue-tie

Apraxia: a disorder characterized by impaired capacity to program the position of musculature and the sequencing of muscle movements; also referred to as dyspraxia; can affect articulation when affecting speech musculature

Articulation Disorder: incorrect production of speech sounds due to faulty placement, timing, direction, pressure, speed or integration of the movement of the lips, tongue, or velum (soft palate)

Asthma: a disorder that causes the airways of the lungs to swell and narrow, leading to wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and coughing

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): a psychiatric and neurobehavioral disorder characterized by inattentiveness, over-activity, distractibility, disorganization, procrastination, forgetfulness, impulsivity, or a combination out of the normal range for a child's age and development. ADD is a subtype of ADHS characterized primarily as inattentive and may or may not include hyperactive symptoms.

Auditory Processing Disorder: impaired ability to attend, discriminate, recognize or comprehend auditory information even though hearing and intelligence are within normal limits

Asperger's Syndrome: an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) that is characterized by significant difficulties in social interaction, alongside restricted and repetitive patterns of behavior and interests; affects a person's ability to socialize and communicate effectively with others; typically exhibit social awkwardness and an all-absorbing interest in specific topics.

Autism: a developmental disorder that appears in the first 3 years of life, and affects the brain's normal development of social and communication skills; typically characterized by restricted and repetitive behavior; may also demonstrate sensory integrative dysfunction

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD): a group of developmental disabilities that can cause significant social, communication and behavioral challenges

Ataxia: muscular incoordination especially manifested when voluntary muscular movements are attempted

Calcaneal Valgum: angling of the heel of the foot outward, thereby flattening the arch of the foot

Calcaneal Varum: angling of the heel of the foot inward, thereby increasing or heightening the arch of the foot

Cerebral Palsy: group of non-progressive, non-contagious motor conditions that cause physical disability in human development, chiefly in the various areas of body movement; caused by damage to the motor control centers of the developing brain and can occur during pregnancy, during childbirth or after birth up to about age two



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Childhood Disintegrative Disorder: a condition in which children develop normally through age 3 or 4 then, over a few months, lose language, motor, social, and other skills that they already learned

Chromosomal Abnormality: problems or errors that exist in the genetic structure of a child's chromosomes

Developmental Delay: when your child does not reach their developmental milestones at the expected times

DiGeorge Syndrome: a primary immunodeficiency disease, which is caused by abnormal migration and development of certain cells and tissues during growth and differentiation of the fetus; affected children may have an underdeveloped chin, eyes with heavy eyelids, ears that are rotated back and defective upper portions of their ear lobes; may also have heart defects and/or abnormalities of the parathyroid and thymus glands

Down Syndrome: also known as Trisomy 21; a chromosomal condition caused by the presence of all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21; typically associated with a delay in cognitive ability and physical growth and a particular set of facial characteristics; average IQ of young adults with Down syndrome is around 50

Dysarthria: term for a collection of motor speech disorders due to impairment originating in the central or peripheral nervous system; respiration, articulation, phonation, resonance, and/or prosody may be affected

Dysfluency: any type of speech marked with repetitions, prolongations and hesitations; an interruption in the flow of speech sounds. Commonly known as stuttering

Dyslexia: a reading disability that occurs when the brain does not properly recognize and process certain symbols

Dyspraxia: deficient motor planning that is often related to a decrease in sensory processing

Dystocia: an abnormal or difficult childbirth or labor

Ear Infections: one of the most common reasons parents take their children to the doctor; the most common type is called otitis media, which means an inflammation and infection of the middle ear, located just behind the eardrum; often caused by blockages or built up fluid in the Eustachian tubes

Echolalia: tendency for an individual to repeat without modification that which is spoken to him; normally occurs between 18 and 24 months of age. a) delayed- repetition of an original utterance at some later time; b) immediate- instant repetition of the original utterance; c) mitigated- repetition of the original utterance with slight modification; d) unmitigated- unchanged repetition; exact duplication of the original utterance

Erb's Palsy: paralysis of the arm caused by injury to the upper group of the arm's main nerves; commonly caused by abnormal birth; also known as brachial plexus injury

Fragile X: a genetic syndrome that is the most widespread single-gene cause of autism and inherited cause of mental retardation among boys; results in a spectrum of intellectual disabilities ranging from mild to severe as well as physical characteristics such as an elongated face, large or protruding ears, and large testicles, and behavioral characteristics such as stereotypic movements (e.g. hand-flapping), and social anxiety



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Genetic Disorder: a disease that is caused by an abnormality in an individual's DNA; abnormalities can range from a small mutation in a single gene to the addition or subtraction of an entire chromosome or set of chromosomes

Genu Recurvatum: a backward bending, frequently referring to the knees

Genu Valgum: angling of the knees inward; knock-kneed

Genu Varum: angling of the knees outward; bow-legged

Gravitational Insecurity: extreme anxiety or fear of falling when one's head position changes

Guillain–Barré Syndrome: sometimes Landry's paralysis; an acute disorder affecting the peripheral nervous system; weakness beginning in the feet and hands and migrating towards the trunk; some subtypes cause change in sensation or pain as well as dysfunction of the autonomic nervous system; can cause life-threatening complications; usually triggered by an infection

Hypersensitivity: (also Hyper-reactivity or Hyper-responsiveness) increased sensitivity to sensory stimuli, characterized by a tendency to be either fearful and cautious, or negative and defiant

Hypertonia: a condition marked by an abnormal increase in muscle tension and a reduced ability of a muscle to stretch; spasticity; hypertension of muscles causing stiff and awkward movements

Hyposensitivity (Hyporeactivity or Hyporesponsiveness): decreased sensitivity to sensory stimuli, characterized by a tendency either to crave intense sensations or to withdraw and be difficult to engage

Hypotonia: a state of low muscle tone often involving reduced muscle strength

Intellectual Disability: a condition characterized by a combination of deficits in both cognitive functioning and adaptive behavior; severity is determined by the discrepancy between the individual's capabilities in learning and in the expectations of the social environment; formerly referred to as “mental retardation”

Kyphosis: an increased convexity in the curvature of the thoracic spine; hunchback

Language Disorder: any difficulty with the production or reception of linguistic units, which may range from total absence of speech to minor variance with syntax; e.g., reduced vocabulary, restricted verbal formulations, omission of articles, prepositions, tense and plural markers

Learning Disability: a neurological condition giving rise to difficulties in acquiring knowledge and skills to the normal level expected of those of the same age

Lordosis: a forward curvature of the lumbar and cervical vertebrae of the spine; referred to as “sway-back”

Muscular Dystrophy: a group of inherited disorders that involve muscle weakness and loss of muscle tissue, which get worse over time

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD): an anxiety disorder in which people have unwanted and repeated thoughts, feelings, ideas, sensations, or behaviors that make them feel driven to do something

Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD): a pattern of disobedient, hostile, and **defiant** behavior toward authority figures



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Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD): includes Autism, Rett syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, and PDD (Not Otherwise Specified); delays in the development of multiple basic functions including socialization and communication

Pes Planus: a condition in which the foot does not have a normal arch when standing; flat feet

Plagiocephaly: a condition characterized by an asymmetrical distortion or flattening of the skull

Postural Insecurity: a fear of body movement; related to poor balance and deficient body awareness

Prader-Willie Syndrome: a congenital disease which many parts of the body; characteristic include obesity, low muscle tone and mental ability, and underproductive sex glands

Prematurity: born before 37 completed weeks of gestation

Rett Syndrome: a disorder of the nervous system that leads to developmental reversals, especially in the areas of expressive language and hand use

Sensory Defensiveness: a child's behavior in response to sensory input, reflecting severe over-reactions or a low threshold to a specific sensory input

Sensory Integrative Dysfunction: the inefficient neurological processing of information received through the senses, causing problems with learning, development, and behavior

Speech Disorder: any deviation of speech outside the range of acceptable variation in a given environment; characteristics include: a) not easily heard; b) not readily intelligible; c) vocally or visually unpleasant; d) deviates in respect to sound production; e) lacks conventional rhythm or stress

Spina Bifida: a birth defect in which the backbone and spinal canal do not close before birth causing the spinal cord to be malformed and lack its usual protective skeletal and soft tissue coverings

Stuttering: disturbance in the normal fluency and time patterning of speech; primary characteristics include one or more of the following: a) audible or silent blocking; b) sound and syllable repetitions; c) sound prolongations; d) interjections; e) broken words; f) circumlocutions; or g) words produced with an excess of tension; Secondary characteristics include the habitual use of speech musculature or other body parts

Tactile Defensiveness: the tendency to react negatively and emotionally to unexpected light touch sensations

Torticollis: a twisted neck in which the head is tipped to one side, while the chin is turned to the other

Tourette Syndrome: a condition that causes people to make repeated, quick movements or sounds that they cannot control; the movements and sounds are referred to as tics

Traumatic Brain Injury: an intracranial injury, occurs when an external force traumatically injures the brain

Visual Motor Delay: decreased visual motor skills resulting in inaccurate reaching, pointing and/or grasping of objects, as well possible difficulty with copying, drawing, tracing and/or cutting

Visual Perception Delay: delay in visual perceptual skills which can interfere with a child's ability to learn self-help skills like tying shoelaces and academic tasks like copying from the blackboard or finding items in a busy background