

## Delay vs. Disorder vs. Difference

- A **Speech sound delay** is when speech is developing in a normal sequence pattern but occurring later than is typical.
- A **Speech disorder** is when mistakes are not “typical” sound errors or are unusual sound errors or error patterns.
- A **Language delay** is when language skills are acquired in a typical sequence, but lag behind peers their own age.
- A **Language disorder** is when the ability to produce or understand connected words and meaningful sentences affects and adversely impacts social and educational performance including the ability to learn to read, write or spell.
- A **Language difference** is when communication behaviors meet the norms of the primary community but do not meet the norms of Standard English. The difference can exist whether the person in question is a child from a different country or simply a different dialect.