

## Speech/Language Impairment (SLI)

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) officially defines speech and language impairments as “a communication disorder such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment that adversely affects a child’s educational performance.” Each point within this definition represents a speech and language subcategory.

- **A communication disorder such as stuttering provides an example of a fluency disorder; other fluency issues include unusual word repetition and hesitant speech.**
- **Impaired articulation indicates impairments in which a child experiences challenges in pronouncing specific sounds.**
- **A language impairment can entail difficulty comprehending words properly, expressing oneself and listening to others.**
- **A voice impairment involves difficulty voicing words; for instance, throat issues may cause an abnormally soft voice.**

