

Is it jargon or a speech/language disorder: How to identify in under 10 minutes

A guide for physicians.

Molly Thompson M.S. CCC-SLP
Pediatric Speech-Language Services,
Anchorage and Eagle River, Alaska
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age: 17 months

A multi-purpose phrase meaning anything from “make me” to “cool truck”

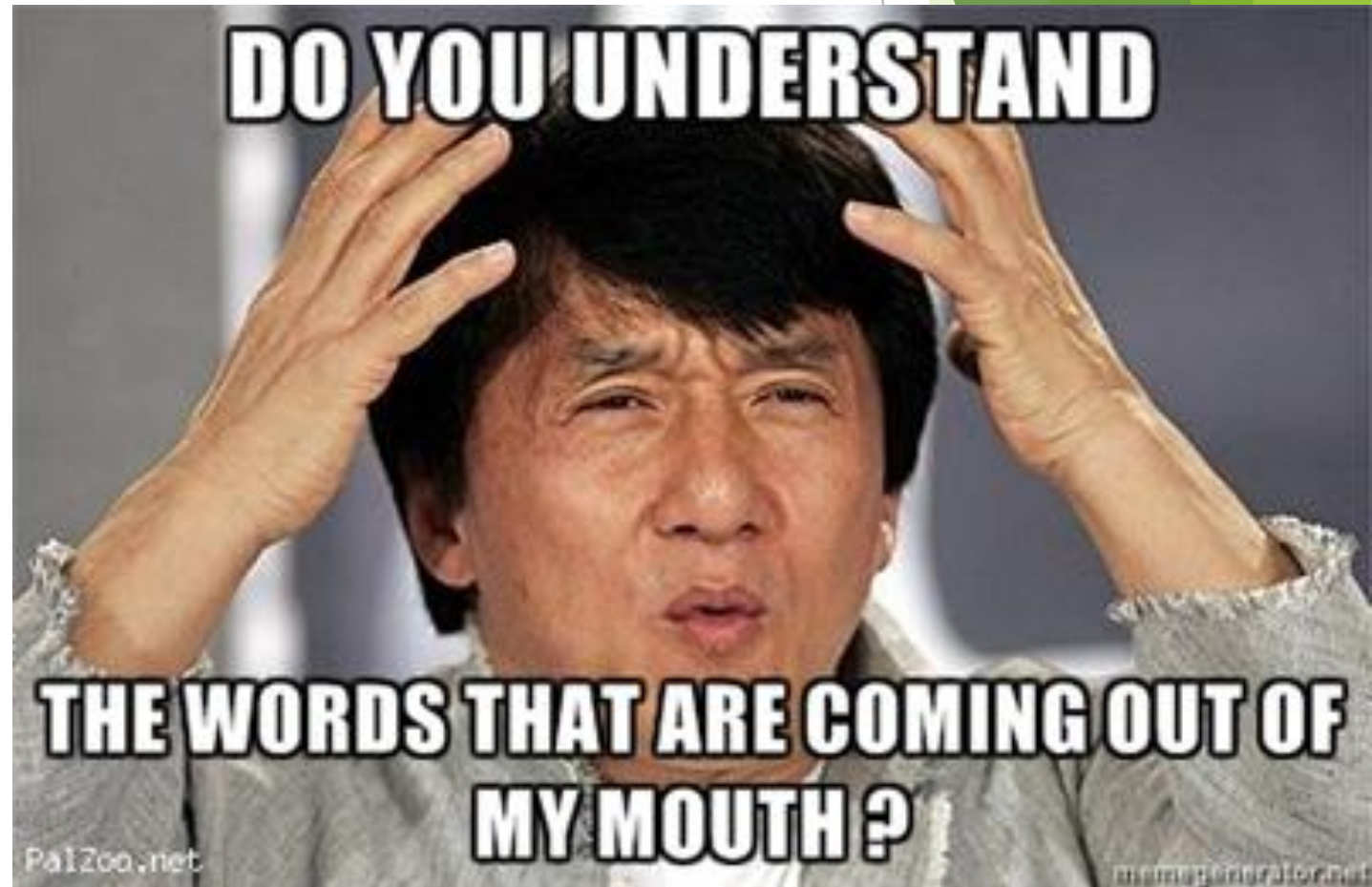
- ▶ When a person is unable to produce speech sounds correctly or fluently, or has problems with his or her voice, then he or she has a speech disorder.



Speech

Language

- ▶ Receptive language: listens, remembers and understands others
- ▶ Expressive: sharing thoughts, ideas, and feelings completely



Risk factors

- ▶ Chronic ear infections=13 months. lasting longer than 8 weeks. Mild-moderate hearing loss.
- ▶ Failed newborn hearing screening
- ▶ Unilateral hearing loss: one ear may not be enough
- ▶ Prematurity

- ▶ Prenatal drug exposure
- ▶ Brain insult: anoxia/head injury/seizure disorders
- ▶ Family history
- ▶ Chromosomal Disorders
- ▶ Metabolic : Galactosemia (oral apraxia)

Intelligibility by the ages

- ▶ 1;0 = 25%
- 2;0 = 50%
- 3;0 = 75%
- 4;0 = 100%

Language by the ages

0-1 Year

Understands

- ▶ familiar words, responds to requests

Says

- ▶ 1-2 words, not necessarily clear

1-2 years

UNDERSTANDS

- ▶ listens to simple stories,
- ▶ points to picture when named

SAYS

- ▶ 1-2 word questions and phrases
- ▶ learns new words every month

2-3 Years

UNDERSTANDS

- ▶ follows a two step request

SAYS

- ▶ 2-3 words to talk about most everything has a word for most everything

3-4 Years

UNDERSTANDS

- ▶ answer who what where and why

SAYS

- ▶ talks about things that have happened,
- ▶ 4 words make up the majority of sentences
- ▶ <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/chart.htm>

How early is too early?

- ▶ Early intervention has been shown to be cost-saving and more efficient.
- ▶ Patterns are not as established. There is a lot less “un-learning”. Plasticity!
- ▶ For speech: 18 months*
- ▶ For language: Language over age two*

*unless there are existing risk factors

Why a speech-language pathologist?

- ▶ The discipline that is all things communication.
- ▶ A speech-language pathologist screens, evaluates, diagnoses, treats and consults on disorders of communication.

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Thank you!

- ▶ Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.
- ▶ Molly Thompson
- ▶ www.polarspeech.com or abilitygroupak.com
- ▶ 907-569-5669
- ▶ polarspeech@gmail.com
- ▶ If you can 't find me, you don't google 😊