

Emerge



A Child's Place



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How Do Teen Psychosocial Problems Relate to Preschool Speech & Language?

April 7, 2008

Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy

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A study published recently showed that children who do not overcome speech and language impairments by age 5.5 show a heightened risk of psychiatric disorder by age 15.¹ Snowling and colleagues assessed the psychosocial adjustment in adolescents with a history of preschool speech and language disorder. They compared their results to a control group of matched peers. Children who had overcome language problems by age 5.5 had good outcomes. For those whose language difficulties persisted through the school years, a higher incidence of social and attention difficulties developed.

These results underscore the risks being taken when parents simply wait for children to grow out of developmental delay. Snowling and colleagues add to a growing body of evidence that correlates unresolved, early speech and language difficulties with psychiatric morbidity.²⁻⁴ The prevalence of psychiatric disorders among young people with a history of speech and language challenges has been measured as high as 53%.² Others have also noted the development of psychiatric problems before the teenage years.^{2,3}

Research to date only shows correlation and has not fully addressed causation. However, the most recent research by Snowling et al does seem to promote the hypothesis that overcoming speech and language difficulties before the school years can have a better effect on psychosocial development. Surveillance for speech and language disorder can be appropriate for children as young as 18 months. The preponderance of randomized, controlled trials - more than 23 - have shown various methods of speech therapy to be effective at improving expressive language, receptive auditory comprehension, lexical acquisition, and phonology in preschoolers.^{5,6} If you or your coworkers would like additional training in recognizing speech and language difficulties among children, please call Emerge - A Child's Place. An expert, pediatric speech therapist will conduct a free training session at your office.



**Please tell parents about Emerge - A Child's Place
Believing in a Child's Potential to Flourish**



Affordable Care at Emerge - A Child's Place

Many parents find that insurance coverage for pediatric occupational or speech therapy is often limited. In these cases, Emerge has even more to offer in addition to uncompromising quality of care and excellent facilities. The rates at Emerge are designed with the knowledge that many families pay for these services from private funds. Even though the quality of care at Emerge is at the highest levels, you will find the fees at Emerge to be the most affordable.

References

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