

# DEVELOPMENTAL STUTTERING



## What is developmental stuttering?

Developmental stuttering is a communication disorder that can emerge as a child develops language.<sup>2</sup> It involves disruptions, or "disfluencies," in a child's speech.<sup>4</sup> Disfluencies can vary from situation to situation.<sup>1</sup>

There are also emotional / internal components of stuttering.<sup>1</sup>

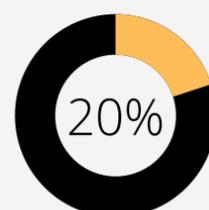
## Fast Facts



Developmental stuttering usually begins between 2 - 5 years of age<sup>4</sup>



Ratio of male children who stutter compared to female children who stutter is 2:1<sup>4</sup>



About 5% of children will go through a phase of stuttering. Of those 5%, 80% will stop stuttering and 20% will continue stuttering<sup>2</sup>

## What are the Risk Factors for Developmental Stuttering?

**Family history of stuttering<sup>5</sup>**

**Developing a stutter later than 3.5 years of age<sup>5</sup>**

**Stuttering for 6-12 months or longer<sup>5</sup>**

**Other speech and language concerns<sup>5</sup>**



**Child's sex (more common in males)<sup>5</sup>**

### Normal (non-stuttering) Disfluencies

- Interjections like "um"<sup>1</sup>
- Repeating multisyllabic *whole* words<sup>1</sup>
- Repeating phrases<sup>1</sup>
- Changing words in a sentence<sup>1</sup>
- Not finishing a thought<sup>1</sup>

### Stuttering Like Disfluencies

- Repeating parts of words or syllables<sup>1</sup>
  - "I g-g-g-g-got it"
  - "Do-do-do it"
- Prolonged sounds<sup>1</sup>
  - "Sssssssilly movie"
- Blocks/stops<sup>1</sup>
  - "Can I (*tense pause*) have it?"

### What emotions might the child feel?

- Frustration<sup>3</sup>
- Stuttering-related<sup>3</sup> changes in mood, such as anger & sadness
- Feel unable to speak<sup>3</sup>



### Resources to explore for more information

- ASHA
  - <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/stuttering>
- National Stuttering Association
  - <https://westutter.org>



### What emotions might you feel as the adult?

- Guilt / Shame<sup>3</sup>
  - Remember, you did not cause the stuttering.
- Worry / Concern<sup>3</sup>
  - This can be a difficult experience, so it is okay to have these feelings

## References

- <sup>1</sup> American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Stuttering. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/disorders/stuttering/>.
- <sup>2</sup> Ashurst, J. V., & Wasson, M. N. (2011). Developmental and persistent developmental stuttering: an overview for primary care physicians. *The Journal of the American Osteopathic Association*, 111(10), 576-580.
- <sup>3</sup> Langevin, M., Packman, A., & Onslow, M. (2010). Parent perceptions of the impact of stuttering on their preschoolers and themselves. *Journal of Communication Disorders*, 43(5), 407-423. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcomdis.2010.05.003>
- <sup>4</sup> National Stuttering Association. (2021, February 13). Home. National Stuttering Association. <https://westutter.org/>.
- <sup>5</sup> Walsh, B., Usler, E., Bostian, A., Mohan, R., Gerwin, K., Brown, B., Weber, C., & Smith, A. (2018). What are predictors for persistence in childhood stuttering? *Seminars in Speech and Language*, 39(04), 299-312. <https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0038-1667159>