

## SPEECH

The 'Speech' scale incorporates all disorders of the structure and/or function of speech production (including articulation and/or speech sounds), across both adults and children. Examples include articulation delay/disorder; phonological delay/disorder; dysarthria and dyspraxia. If an augmentative or alternative communication device is used (external), the use of this should be rated under the 'Activity limitation' domain.

### **Impairment of either Structure or Function (as appropriate to age):**

*Impairments are problems in body structure (anatomical) or function (physiological) as a significant deviation or loss.*

**0 Profound speech impairment:** No speech/ Undifferentiated vocalisations. No voluntary articulatory movements.

**1 Severe speech impairment:** Extremely restricted range of phonemes (eg only one sound class such as vowels)/ Limited or repetitive syllables only. Extremely limited strength, range and/or rate of oral movement or control due to weakness or co-ordination problems (eg cannot imitate mouth shapes).

**2 Moderate/Severe speech impairment:** Restricted range of consonant sounds in repertoire/ Distorted vowel sounds/ Difficulties with sound sequencing evident/ Can attempt target sounds but cannot combine them into words. Strength, range and/or rate of oral movement are markedly reduced.

**3 Moderate speech impairment:** Restricted range of phonemes in speech but correctly used / Multiple errors in speech sound system/ Can combine target sounds correctly into syllables and words when cued, but is not yet spontaneous. Strength, range and/or rate of oral movement are moderately reduced: can control oral movement to imitate shapes and most sounds (inconsistently).

**4 Mild speech impairment:** 1-2 sound errors of place or manner (eg /k/ → /t/) which are common, but not appropriate for age, able to produce these with cues and sometimes spontaneously (but inconsistent)/ mild imprecision in speech (eg slurring some words), may be affected by situation (eg talking quickly). Strength, range and/or rate of oral movement are mildly reduced: can control oral movement to imitate shapes and all sounds (inconsistently).

**5 No speech impairment:** Speech is appropriate for age/ culture/ developmental level (eg developmentally appropriate sound errors only). Full range of age-appropriate sounds able to be targeted. No restrictions in range of oral movement.

### **Activity Limitation (as appropriate to age):**

*Activity limitation results from the difficulty in the performance of an activity. Activity is the execution of a task by an individual. Communication may involve the use of AAC devices.*

**0** Unable to communicate message. Communication is never effective.

**1** Communication is occasionally effective in one type of situation only (eg with main communication partner).

**2** Communication is usually effective in more than one type of situation, with a familiar person. Person can usually convey basic needs and wants to main communication partners.

**3** Communication is effective in many types of situations with familiar people, and may be effective with unfamiliar people. Person can effectively convey needs and wants to main communication partners, but not always with others.

**4** Communication is effective with familiar people and usually with non familiar people. Communication may be compromised by environment eg noisy background.

**5** Able to communicate message successfully to a wide range of people in a range of situations.

**Participation Restriction (as appropriate to age):**

*Participation restrictions are difficulties the individual may have in the manner or extent of involvement in their life situation. Clinicians should ask themselves: "given their problem, is this individual experiencing disadvantage?"*

- 0 Unable to fulfill social, work, educational or family roles. No social integration. No involvement in decision-making. No control over environment. Unable to reach potential in any situation.
- 1 Severe difficulties in fulfilling social, work, educational or family roles. Very limited social integration. Very limited involvement in decision-making. Very little control over environment. Can only rarely reach potential with maximum assistance.
- 2 Moderately severe difficulties in fulfilling social, work, educational or family roles. Limited social integration. Limited involvement in decision-making. Control over environment in one setting only. Usually reaches potential with maximum assistance.
- 3 Moderate difficulties in fulfilling social, work, educational or family roles. Relies on moderate assistance for social integration. Limited involvement in decision-making. Control over environment in more than one setting. Always reaches potential with maximum assistance and sometimes reaches potential without assistance.
- 4 Mild difficulties in fulfilling social, work, educational or family roles. Needs little assistance for social integration and decision-making. Control over environment in more than one setting. Reaches potential with little assistance.
- 5 No difficulties in fulfilling social, work, educational or family roles. No assistance required for social integration or decision-making. Control over environment in all settings. Reaches potential with no assistance.

**Wellbeing/Distress (as appropriate to age):**

*The level of concern experienced by the individual. Concern may be evidenced by anger, frustration, apathy, depression etc.*

- 0 High and consistent levels of distress or concern.
- 1 Severe concern, becomes distressed or concerned easily. Requires constant reassurance. Loses emotional control easily.
- 2 Moderately severe concern. Frequent emotional encouragement and reassurance required.
- 3 Moderate concern. May be able to manage emotions at times, although may require some encouragement.
- 4 Mild concern. Able to manage emotions in most situations. Occasional emotional support or encouragement needed.
- 5 Able to cope with most situations. Accepts and understands own limitations.