

**A Complete Guide for Parents: Childhood Communication Disorders**

An Honors Thesis (HRS 499)

by

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## **Abstract**

The purpose of this thesis project is to provide parents with a complete, comprehensive guide that explains different child communication disorders, how they affect academic performance, the types of treatment available, and helpful parental strategies. Hopefully this booklet will be helpful in providing parents with a condensed amount of material about the problem their child is encountering.

There are two sections to this booklet. The first describes a variety of childhood communication disorders, the symptoms involved, names of tests used to assess the child, treatment strategies, academic impact, and ways parents can help the child at home. The second section includes needed background information like the type of professionals parents will be dealing with, augmentative and alternative communication, First Steps and early intervention, teaching strategies, types of therapy, coping strategies, and code of conduct guidelines.

# **Acknowledgements**

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I would like to thank the services of the writing desk at the learning center for editing my work.

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I would like to thank my roommates, friends, and boyfriend for giving me the time to work on my thesis.

Senior Honors Thesis  
HONORS 499

1. The Honors project should broaden your educational experience through independent work that adds to your knowledge and develops your talents. How will your project accomplish these objectives and add to your personal goals? Why, in short, do you want to do this particular project?

This project will further my knowledge about speech language pathology. It will continue my development as a clinician, and force me to explain some childhood disorders that I have not learned in class yet. For the disorders that I have already studied, this project will serve as a fantastic review before entering graduate level courses. I believe that it will create academic credibility for the time I start looking for a job and begin my career professionally.

2. When are you signing up for HONORS 499 (or what is the proposed equivalent)?

I am signing up for Hrs 499 during the spring 2008.

3. What will be the outcome of this project?

The outcome will be an extensively in-depth booklet that will be similar to an informational pamphlet or brochure handouts. There will be different sections describing varied topics that are further explained below. Depending on the outcome, it may not be in traditional APA style.

4. Objective or Thesis (include target audience, purpose):

The target audience of this project are the parents of children with disorders. The objective is to combine all of the information spread throughout the multiple complex sources about childhood disorders and condense it into a smaller, easily understandable, more accessible booklet. Parents may not feel as informed as they wish, but do not know how to gain further knowledge. This booklet will answer their questions such as "What skills are affected by my child's disorder," "What can I do at home to help my child's situation," and "What goes on in therapy between my child and the speech pathologist." The objective is to help the parent better understand their child, their own role as a parent, and how the speech therapist is involved. I will also be writing this material so it can be used by other students' research in the future.

5. Project Description (please be specific- approximately two paragraphs)

As previously stated above there will be at least two sections in this booklet. As of now they are as followed. The first will describe the disorders and their symptoms, how to deal with them on a daily basis, what parents can do at home to further progress, and the impact the disorders have on academic performance. Some of the disorders that I know will be included are: Language Disorders as a whole, Articulation Disorders as a whole, Hearing Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, Stuttering, Voice Disorders, Specific

Language Impairment, development of Apraxia, Autism spectrum, Selective Mutism, and more.

Another section will cover topics like qualifications of a speech language pathologist and a brief overview of their description, special education programs available, confidentiality rules for all certified therapists, types of therapy, Augmentative & Alternative Communication Devices, and more.

6. State the importance or implications of this project.

What do you expect to learn, or what would others learn from knowing about your anticipated results?

I expect to experience the viewpoint of a parent of a child with a disorder. As a student, I see one side of the spectrum. I believe that knowing how the parent feels or what they are going through, will greatly help broaden my abilities as a clinician. Learning and organizing this much information about my major will better help me understand the topics I need to know inside and out to benefit my clients. I will be more aware of how a child can be drastically set back in a classroom, so my goals need to be carried over outside of therapy itself. Overall it will prepare me for what daily life will be like once I enter the work force as a speech pathologist.