

Stuttering in preschoolers

Cause of stuttering

The cause of stuttering is very complex. In most children it is explained by the processing of speech that is different in the brain and by genetic factors.



Characteristics

Visible features are repetitions of sounds or words and being stuck in or before a sound. Stuttering also has an impact on social and emotional functioning. Sometimes children show secondary behaviours such as gasping for breath, which indicates fighting the stuttering.



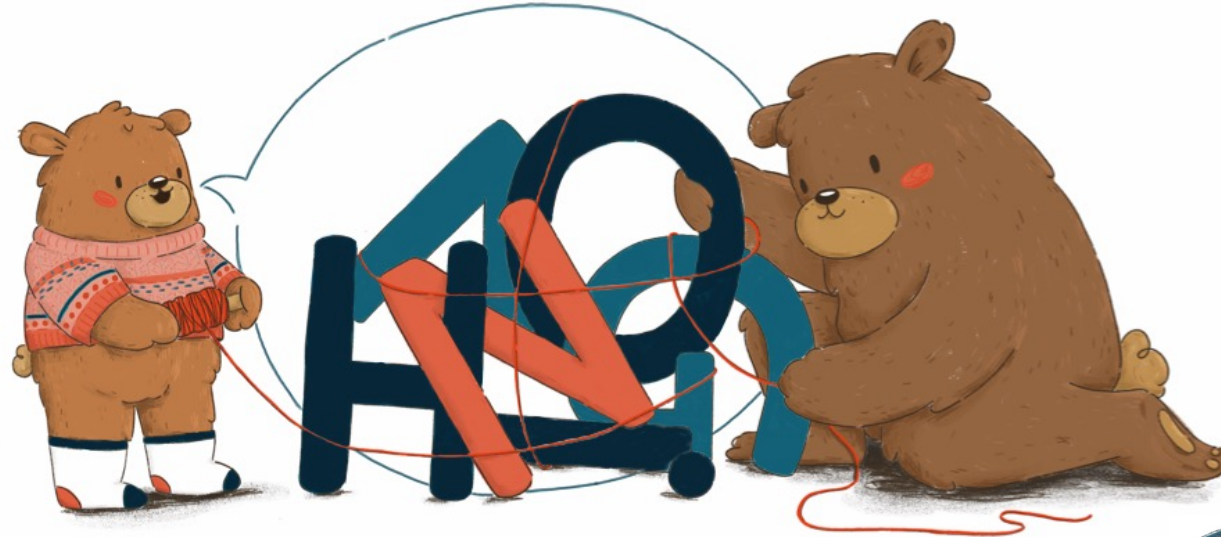
How can we help?

- Take the time to talk to the child.
- Be relaxed and look at the child while you listen.
- Wait your turn to speak and do not interrupt the child.
- Respond to what the child says, not to how it was said.



When do we speak of stuttering?

When there is an increased presence of abnormal disfluencies, it is appropriate to speak of stuttering.



More information



<https://www.thomasmore.be/stotteren-bij-kleuters>

Referral

Do you think a child stutters? Do not wait. Parents should contact a speech therapist specialized in stuttering. With the right advice or treatment, the chance to recover before the age of 6 years is greater.



Talking about the stuttering

It is important that the child and his/her environment acknowledge their thoughts and feelings and make stuttering a subject for discussion. The child is often already aware of the stuttering. By talking about it, the child will worry less. Ask a speech therapist specialized in stuttering for specific tips.

