

Barriers to Speaking

Children communication/speech is affected by various barriers. These are some of the barriers suggested by your predecessors. Go through them and see whether they are all valid and suggest some more:

- (i) Lack of appropriate vocabulary – they do not have the right words for various concepts, object and phrases.
- (ii) Underdeveloped articulators – vocal cords, pharynx, voice box and lips.
- (iii) Lack of appropriate meaning for certain concepts
- (iv) Lack of exposure – they do not have enough opportunities to use the language. No chance to talk at home.
- (v) Lack of understanding of the message
- (vi) Environmental distractions.
- (vii) Speech disorders such as cleft palate
- (viii) Lack of turn-taking skills
- (ix) Lack of role model in speech
- (x) Intelligence level – their mental capacity is limited, meaning, they know little hence cannot express themselves.
- (xi) Social-emotional status such as anxiety, fear and so on.

Handling Barriers to Speaking

You as a teacher or caregiver must come up with strategies to help children overcome barriers to speaking

- (i) Caregivers should be role models – being as an example to show children what you expect them to imitate.
- (ii) Use of Child Directed Speech (CDS)
- (iii) Removing distractions such as noise and other competing sounds.
- (iv) Provide enough opportunity for the child to speak to others.
- (v) The caregiver should try to identify the problem in speech, then he/she should refer the child for check-up.
- (vi) Training the child to speak
- (vii) Encouraging speaking/speech interactions