

SLP IEP Terms: Plain Language Dictionary		
SLP Term	Plain Language	Example
Alveolar sounds	Sounds where your tongue touches the front bumpy part of the roof of your mouth.	/t/ in talk, /d/ in door
Apraxia	When your mouth has trouble saying exactly what you want to say.	When you try to say a sentence about something but your mouth doesn't move the way that you want it to
Article	Little words we say before nouns	a, an, the
Articulation	The way you move the parts of your mouth to speak.	Moving the jaw, lips, and tongue to make speech sounds
Assessment	Testing to check on how your child is doing with speech, language, and communication.	A formal test or an informal test to measure skills
Audition	Hearing	Using your ears to hear
Auditory Comprehension	Understanding what you hear.	I say, "Show me the dog," and you point to the picture of the dog, showing you understood the word dog.
Auditory Processing	What your brain does with what you hear.	I say, "It's time to wash your hands and then sit down," and you wash your hands and then sit down, showing that you processed the two directions I gave.
Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC)	Any kind of communication that doesn't involve talking	Pictures, gestures, iPad application, writing, emojis, sign language, eye gaze board, etc.
Autism	A particular way of thinking about sights, sounds, information, movements, and interactions.	#ActuallyAutistic community, Reframing Autism
Bilabial	Speech sounds that you make by putting your lips together	/m/ in mom, /b/ in ball, /p/ in pop
Bilingual	When you can speak two languages	She speaks English and Spanish really well. She is bilingual.
Cognition	Being aware of what's going on around you and thinking through information that you are given	Memory and making decisions can be involved here
Communication	I have a message that I want to send you and you receive it -success!	You might know I'm hungry because I pat my stomach, or because I point to the kitchen, or I touch a picture of food, or because I walk to the pantry, or make a chewing sound/ motion, or because I say "I'm hungry."
Comprehension	Understanding	I say a word and you understand it. You read a book and understand it. You hear directions and understand them. I draw something and you understand it.
Conversation	Back and forth exchange	I say something, you think about it and respond with a comment or question, I respond, you respond, etc.
Cue/Prompt	A clue to help you get started	I start the sentence and you finish it. I use a gesture to remind you how to make a speech sound. I use a picture to help you get started. Cues go from "most helpful" or lots of help to "least helpful" or a little help
Dysfluency /Stuttering	Interruptions in your speech	Saying "I I I I went to the park." (Repetition), or Youuuuu are my friend (prolongation), or <pause> Iwent to the park (hesitation).
Echolalia	Repeating words or phrases	Can be repeating what someone says right after they hear it, or months later repeating lines from a movie for example
Executive Functioning	How you keep all the things straight in your head	Planning where to go and how to do things, making a decision about something, solving problems thatcome up, and figuring out if something is a good idea or not.
Generalization / Carryover	Am I able to do something in lots of different places and with lots of different people?	Saying my name when asked: by a teacher at school, by my aunt at home, by the cashier at the store, by the driver on the bus.
Intelligibility	How well you can understand what someone says	100% intelligibility means you understand everything someone says, 0% means you can't understand anything someone says
Intonation	The ups and downs in the pitch of our voice when we talk	Talking in a high pitch or a low pitch, or when our voice goes up at the end when we ask a question. "Do you want to go to the movies?"



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Language	The system we use for sending messages that uses a set way to combine words into sentences.	English, Chinese, French, Spanish, etc. all have their own set of rules and ways to combine sounds to make sense to other speakers of the same language.
Memory	Remembering things	Remembering names, birthdays, faces, appointments, things that happened (5 minutes ago or five years ago), things that people said, directions, etc.
MLU - Mean Length of Utterance	The number of words that someone usually says in a sentence	From a sample of a bunch of sentences, it's the average number of words that the person said in each sentence
Multimodal Communication	Lots of ways of saying the same thing	Pointing to a chair while saying chair while showing a picture of a chair and making the sign for chair, and the chair has a label on it that says “chair.” Lots of ways to understand the word chair.
Naming	Tell what something is.	Pointing at a picture of a house and saying “house”
Oral Mechanism Exam	Checking all the parts of the mouth to see if the structures are intact	An overview of the tongue, teeth, palate, etc. to make sure that there are not any structural reasons why speech and/or swallowing may be impaired
Phonation	Making sounds with your mouth	Using your voice to make sounds.
Phoneme	A speech sound	The little sounds that we make to form words like d-o-g
Phonological Awareness	Knowing about letter sounds	Being able to hear each sound in a word (like d-o-g), blending sounds together, rhyming words, knowing how many syllables are in a word, sounding out words while reading
Pragmatics	Social use of language	Saying hi to people, taking turns in a back and forth communication, asking questions, making comments, volume of your voice, and talking about appropriate things
Prosody	Melody of your speech	Talking fast or slow, loud or soft, and using stress on different words when you want to joke with someone or be sarcastic or emphasize something.
Resonance	How the air moves through your mouth or nose when you talk	We usually breathe through our mouths when we talk except when we say the m, n, or ng sounds and the air goes through our noses
Semantics	What words mean	When I say dog, you think of a dog. When I say scary, you think of something scary.
Speech	Talking	Using your voice to talk
Syntax	Putting words together correctly to form a sentence	Making sure all the parts of a sentence are there and in the right order so that the sentence makes sense. understand it.
Tongue Thrust	The tongue touches the teeth while in a resting position	When the person is not talking, their tongue rests against their teeth instead of farther back in the mouth.
Wh Questions	Question words that start with Wh	Who, what, when, where, why, which, whose (and how)

