


SHS 431
Introduction to Language Disorders

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Fall 2009

Today's Class

- › Introductions
- › Course Syllabus
- › How to Do Well in this Course
- › Defining Language Disorders



Information Card

- › Name
- › Address
- › Phone #
- › Email (University email account)
- › Anything else you think I need to know about you

Hints for doing well in this course:

- ▶ Be in class.
- ▶ Read assigned chapters.
- ▶ Take notes.
- ▶ Prepare for quizzes and tests.
- ▶ Form study groups.
- ▶ Turn in assignments on time.
- ▶ Keep track of your grades.
- ▶ Take advantage of early review
- ▶ Seek help from me when you need it!

**ASHA
Definition of Language Disorder**

- ▶ An impairment in comprehension and/or use of a spoken, written, and/or other symbol system, that may involve the form, content, and/or function in any combination.
- ▶ Comprehension or use
- ▶ Spoken, written, or other symbol system
- ▶ Form, content or function

- ▶ See Paul, page 3

What is a "significant" deficit?

- ▶ Normative
 - Deficit is noticeable in the environment
 - Big enough to be noticed by parents, teachers, peers
- ▶ Neutralist
 - Deficit is measured relative to "norm-referenced expectations"
 - Score significantly below expectations on a standardized test
 - Problems with test construction
 - What is significant? 1, 1.5, 2 standard deviations < mean?
 - <10th %ile or 1.25 SD (score of 80), 1 or 2 measures?

Discrepancy-based Criteria

- ▶ Discrepancy based upon chronological age reference
 - Developmental level is significantly below chronological age
 - Preferred reference point
- ▶ Discrepancy based upon cognitive age reference
 - Developmental level is significantly below mental or cognitive age
 - Nonverbal cognitive assessment
 - Controversial reference point

Terminology

- ▶ Terms to Avoid:
 - Congenital or childhood aphasia
 - Delay
 - Deviance
- ▶ World Health Organization preferred terms:
 - Impairment – any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function (disorder can be synonym)
 - Disability – reduction in person's ability to address needs of daily living
 - Handicap – social or occupational disadvantage due to a disability or impairment
