



## Getting Started: Language Deprivation and Dysfluency related to Mental Health

**Target audience:** *Mental Health professionals working with Deaf individuals who wish to learn more about language dysfluency. This paper is meant to be an overview of the subject. For a more complete understanding of this topic, contact our office for additional information.*

- Lack of adequate language exposure (Language Deprivation) is a common reason for language dysfluency.
- Other reasons can include:
  - o Medical conditions
  - o Psychiatric conditions
  - o Etiological causes (the reason for the hearing loss)
- Language dysfluency is not a normal result of being deaf, cognitive disability, or mental illness but could be a possible reason for emotional or behavioral responses.
  - o Can impact how person receives, processes, expresses information
  - o Can impact treatment options
- The critical period for acquisition of language closes around puberty.
  - o After which basic nouns, verbs, and adjectives may be learned, but complex aspects of language including grammar and syntax are nonexistent or severely limited.
- Language deprivation can impact a multitude of factors including language, cognition, psychosocial development, behavior, and capacity and readiness for education, employment, and interventions.
- Severely language deprived and dysfluent individuals can have “normal” intelligence.

For more information:

Glickman, N. S., & Hall, W. C. (Eds.). (2018). *Language deprivation and deaf mental health*. Routledge.