



Childhood Stuttering Screening for Physicians

Many children exhibit stuttering behaviors in their speech between the ages of 2 and 5. While most children stop stuttering, some need treatment to help them develop their speech and communication abilities. **Early intervention is critical for children who may continue stuttering.** This screening examines risk factors for continued stuttering to help physicians identify children who should immediately be referred to a qualified speech-language pathologist (SLP) for evaluation and possible treatment.

Instructions: Screen children ages 2 to 5 whose caregivers express concern about speech disfluencies or stuttering.

- ◆ **Refer all children older than age 5 who appear to be stuttering;** no further screening is necessary.
- ◆ Ask a parent or caregiver the following questions. If they answer **“Yes” to the first question** (family history of stuttering) or **“Yes” to 4 or more of the numbered questions**, refer the child to a qualified SLP as soon as possible.
- ◆ Rescreen in 3 months if the parent or caregiver answers **“Yes” to fewer than 4 of the numbered questions.**

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____

Screening Date: _____ Birth Date: _____ MR#: _____

Do any members of the child's immediate or extended family stutter or have a history of stuttering?

☐ No: *CONTINUE* with questions 1-7.

☐ Yes: *REFER* to SLP. No further screening necessary.

- Are you concerned or worried about your child's stuttering? ☐ No ☐ Yes
- Have you observed any of the following stuttering behaviors in your child's speech?
 - ◆ Repetitions of sounds or words ("I-I-I-like this" or "like-like this") ☐ No ☐ Yes
 - ◆ Prolongations of sounds ("lllllllike this") ☐ No ☐ Yes
 - ◆ Blocks, or moments when no sound comes out at all ("I----ike this") ☐ No ☐ Yes
- Has it been 3 months or longer since your child **first** started stuttering? ☐ No ☐ Yes
- Has the stuttering increased in frequency or severity over time? ☐ No ☐ Yes
- Have you observed physical tension or tightness in your child's face or body during speaking? (e.g., tensing of the mouth, eyes, hands) ☐ No ☐ Yes
- Does your child appear to be concerned or worried about speaking? (e.g., expressing frustration about talking, reacting strongly to stuttering) ☐ No ☐ Yes
- Do you have any other concerns about your child's speech or language development? (e.g., difficulties with sound production, forming sentences) ☐ No ☐ Yes

Number of "Yes" responses to questions 1 through 7: _____

☐ 1-3: *RE-SCREEN* in 3 months.

☐ 4-9: *REFER* to Speech-Language Pathologist.

