

FACTS ABOUT NORMAL FLUENCY DEVELOPMENT FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- The ability to produce speech fluently develops as children grow.
- Normal fluency includes disfluencies.
- Examples of normal disfluencies are:
 1. whole word and phrase repetitions “Can – Can I have some candy.” “It went – It went under the car.”
 2. sentence revisions “The juice – It’s spilling!”
 3. pauses filled with um, ah, uh “I want – um – the bicycle please.”
 4. unfilled pauses – hesitations “Michael (pause) come here.”
 5. occasional single easy part word repetitions “B-but I need another one.”
- Children vary widely in the number and kind of normal disfluencies they use.
- In some situations (such as an exciting family party) and with some listeners (a distant relative), normal disfluencies may increase in number.
- Whole word repetitions are the most common normal disfluency and occur most frequently at the beginnings of sentences.
- Boys seem to show more whole word repetitions than girls.