



# *Language disorders and resulting issues*

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*Emily Czarnecki*



# Major areas of language

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- Form
  - Phonology- putting sounds together to make words (like spelling rules)
  - Morphology- how sounds go together to influence each other
  - Syntax- how words are arranged to make meaning (grammar)
- Content
  - Vocab
  - Semantics- meaning behind words
  - Pragmatics- how we combine parts to communicate appropriately in social situations (context)



# Question

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- Does anyone know what a language disorder is?
- Does anyone know somebody with a language disorder?



# Language disorders (LD)

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- Impairments that involve the processing of linguistic information
  - Problems may include grammar (syntax or morphology), semantics, pragmatics, or other aspects of language
  - 5% children in US develop LD in life
  - 180,000 US adults acquire each year



# 3 categories of LD

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- 1. Receptive LD
  - Difficulty understanding what others say
- 2. Expressive LD
  - Difficulty expressing thoughts and ideas
- 3. Receptive-expressive LD
  - Difficulty understanding and using spoken languages



# Children LD

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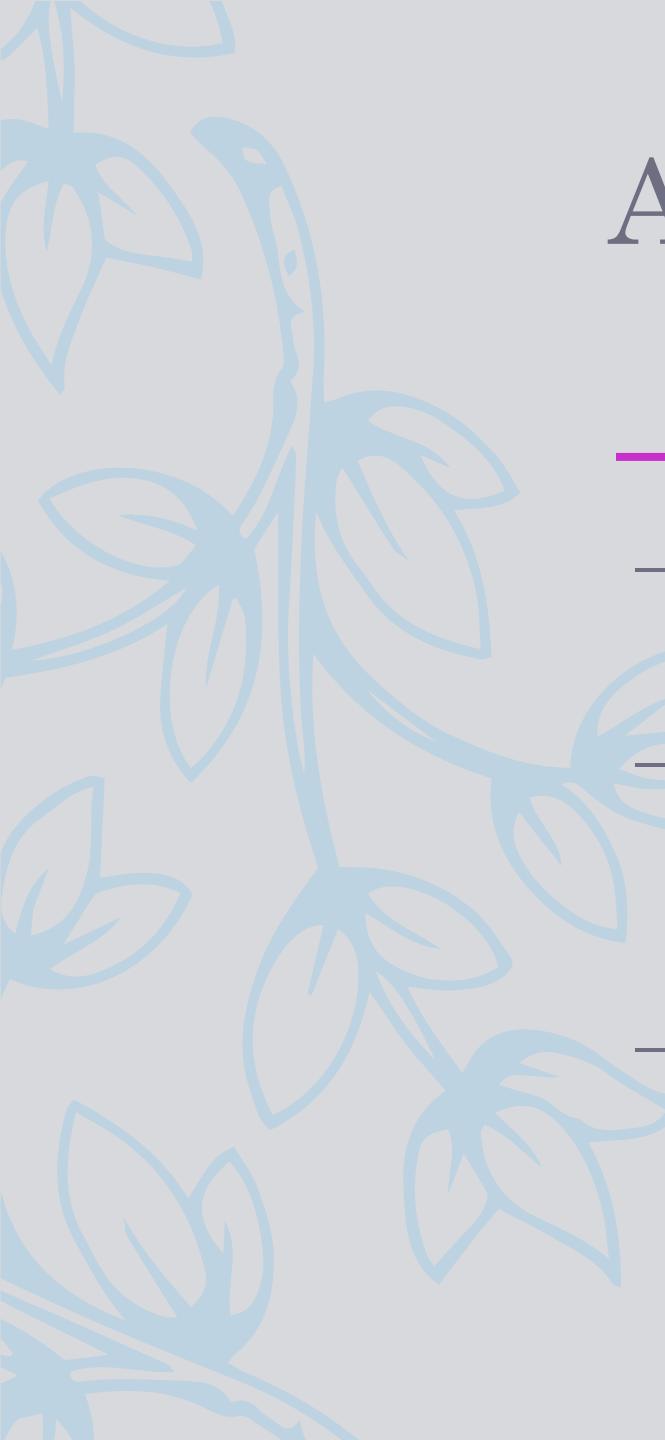
- Child's LD is a “significant deficit in the child’s level of development of the form, content, or use of language” (Paul, 2007)
- Most develop LD before age of 2
- Heredity, prenatal nutrition, mental retardation, premature birth



# Adult LD

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- Acquire LD from neurological issue, stroke, traumatic head injury, brain injury
- Language and cognition do not work simultaneously together anymore



# Aphasia

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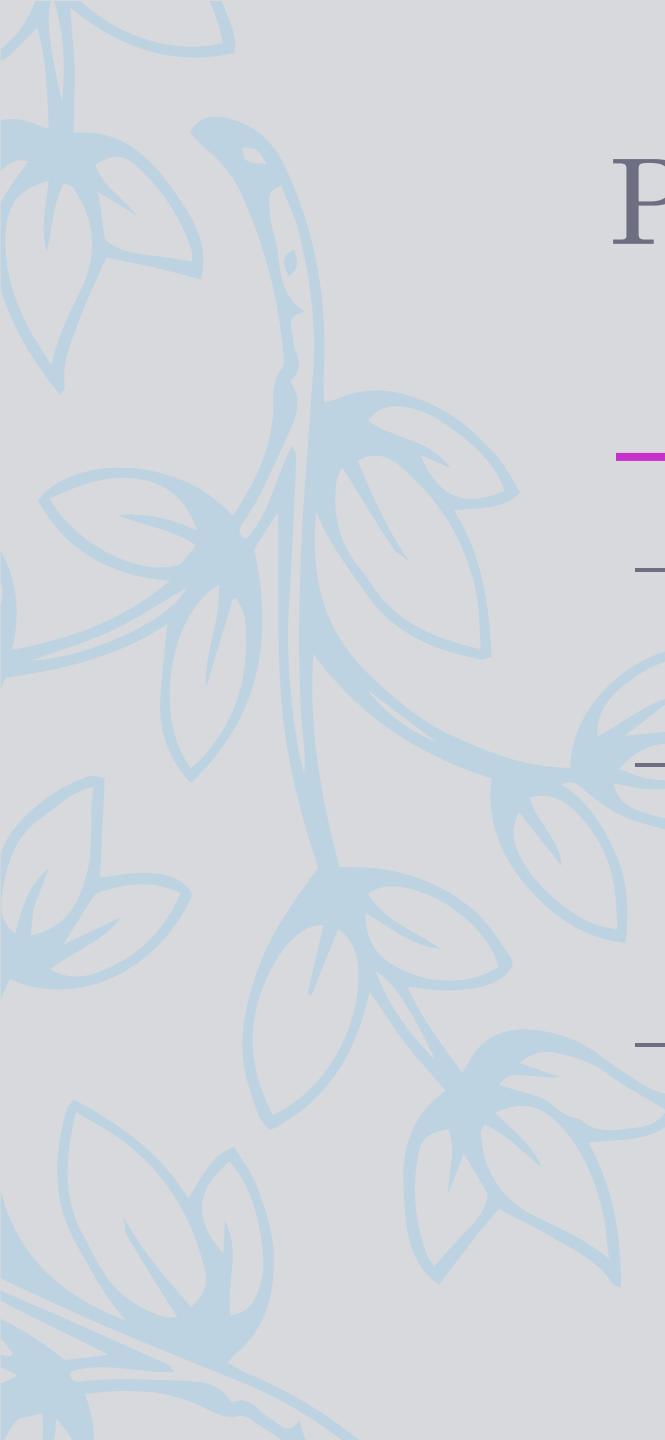
- Aphasia = “an acquired loss of language that causes problems with speaking, listening, reading, and writing” (USCF, 2014)
- Receptive aphasia
  - Wernicke’s area
  - Near auditory cortex
- Expressive aphasia
  - Broca’s area
  - Left temporal lobe



# Problems for children w/LD

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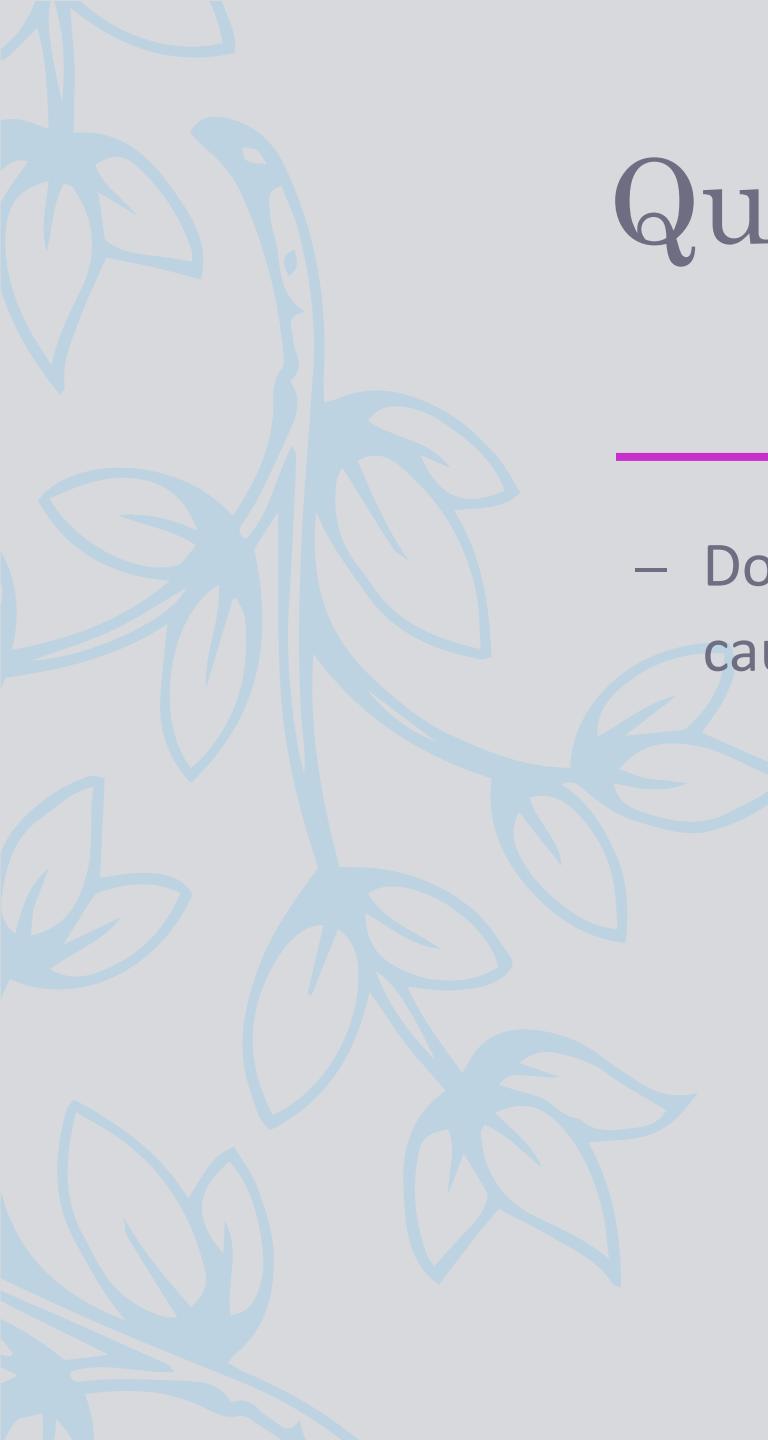
- Social
  - Struggle to build relationships with others
  - Studies in 1991 by Rice, Sell, and Hadley → language level affecting relationships
- Academic
  - Follow along, form sentences, pay attention, sort out information



# Problems for adults w/LD

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- May be social and academic, but more influential emotional struggles
- Chris Code, Gayle Hemsley, Mansfred Hermann 1999 article: emotional affects of aphasia on people after expecting stroke or brain injury
- Negative emotions, depression, communicative/social isolation, occupational frustrations, reduced involvement everyday living



# Question

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- Does anyone have any suggestions on how to decrease issues caused by language disorders?



# Importance early diagnosis: children

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- Important because could be mistaken for bad students
- Private professional help or local school district help
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association studies
- Important to communicate often with child at home



# Importance early diagnosis: adults

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- Rehabilitation programs
- Trained speech and language professionals
- Importance of staying positive
- Also ways to improve communication with adult with aphasia



# Future thoughts...

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- Speech language pathologists, therapy sessions, and rehab programs all decrease likelihood of social/academic/emotional issues
- Research on genetic inheritability of language disorders
- Advances in medication to reverse or better treat damage to Broca's and Wernicke's areas
- Any other ideas on ways to better identify and treat language disorders?