Klinefelter Syndrome

What is Klinefelter Syndrome?

• The most common sex chromosomal disorder
• A genetic condition that occurs in males when they have an extra X chromosome
  ○ A chromosome carries our DNA, most people have 46
  ○ Males typically XY, Females XX, Males with Klinefelter XXY
• Difficult to diagnose before puberty
• Affects about 1 in every 700 males

Physical Characteristics of Klinefelter Syndrome

• Tendency to grow fewer chest hairs
• Absence of frontal forehead baldness
• Poor beard growth
• Breast development and wide hips
• Female-type pubic hair pattern
• Small testicular size
• Narrow shoulders
• Long arms and legs

- Some XXY males may not show signs or symptoms of the condition while others display these physical attributes
- Elective surgery and testosterone treatments are options to manage physical characteristics. These options should be discussed with your doctor.

Other signs

• Poor motor skills (clumsiness and delayed walking)
• Depression or anxiety
• Behavioral problems
• Delayed language development

When is it diagnosed?

• Before birth with DNA testing
• In school—decreased reading and language skills
• Adolescence—puberty may involve breast development
• Adulthood—infertility issues
Klinefelter Syndrome

Signs Regarding Communication

- Difficulty understanding spoken language
- Reading difficulties
- Trouble coming up with names for items (often use words like *thing/stuff*
- Social awkwardness
- Behavioral problems
- Difficulty paying attention

Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)

- Evaluate to identify areas of communication and learning needs
- Determine helpful communication strategies
- Educate family, caregivers, and school staff on the best ways to communicate with the child

Classroom Modifications and Communication Strategies

- Speak slowly and repeat information
- Present items visually (pictures, written, gestures)
- Use simple and complete sentences with lots of vocabulary
- Teach synonyms and categories of words
- Offer choices rather than open ended questions (Do you want __? Versus What do you want to do?)
- Reduce distractions

For more information, please visit:
http://www.klinefeltersyndrome.org
http://www.healthieryou.com/klinefelter.html