

CEREBRAL PALSY

What is Cerebral Palsy?

- A congenital disorder that refers to a group of neurological disorders that affect movement of body parts & coordination of muscles
- It is classified based on:
 - Severity level
 - Body parts affected
 - Ability to control movement
 - Muscle tone

Speech & Language

- Over 1/3 of people with CP have speech & language disorders
 - This can make it difficult for them to communicate effectively with others
- A child's ability to communicate can vary based on type & severity of the disorder

Role of the Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP)

- Help children speak more clearly
- Provide services for swallowing difficulties
- Show children new ways to communicate
- Assist in selecting an augmentative or alternative communication device to improve overall communication skills

Tips for Addressing Communication Needs

- Talk directly to the child, rather than expecting an adult to communicate for them
- If a child does not respond, try to ask a “yes/no” question
- Pay attention to other ways that a child may be trying to communicate, such as gestures or facial expressions
- Be supportive of different methods the child may use to communicate – do not force communication!

