



Lisa M. Phillips, M.S. CCC/SLP
1048 Lancaster Street, Leominster, MA 01453
Telephone (401) 465-3004 • www.phillipsspeechtherapy.com

Facts About Stuttering

1. It is very common for children to disfluencies in their speech. These include pauses, repetitions, additions or prolongations. However the number of these disfluent behaviors is important when determining if “true” stuttering exists. Generally speaking, stuttering on more than 10 words out of 100 may indicate that a child is having a problem.
2. Three to four more boys stutter for every girl who stutters.
3. Frequency and severity of stuttering varies with time and circumstance. Stuttering may disappear completely for relatively long periods of time and then return “full force.”
4. *What causes stuttering?*
There are many factors said to “cause” stuttering, but the root cause remains unknown. As stuttering often runs in families, some believe it is related to genetics. Another factor is a predisposition to stuttering during early development when a child’s physical, cognitive, speech/language skills, etc. are developing at a very rapid rate. Researchers also feel that environmental factors (e.g. parental attitude, stressors, etc.) may have an influence.
5. *Where can I go for help?*
 - a. The National Stuttering Association
www.WeStutter.org
 - b. Stuttering Foundation of American
www.stutteringhelp.org
 - c. The Stuttering Home Page
www.stutteringhomepage.com
 - d. The American Speech Language Hearing Association
www.asha.org