



What is Receptive Language?

What is it?

- Receptive Language is the input and understanding of language. While expressive language pertains to speaking and writing, receptive language includes *listening and reading*. This may also commonly be referred to as *reading comprehension* and *listening comprehension*. Sometimes, children may know and understand more than they can explain or share in speaking and writing.
- In the classroom, this may look like:
 - Understanding sentence structure and order
 - Higher level critical thinking skills, such as:
 - Inference making based on information in a text, conversation, or social scenario, or “reading between the lines.”
 - Text structure (e.g. problem/solution, description, opinion, narrative, etc.)
 - Challenges with following written or teacher-led instructions, for example, completing only 1, 2 or 3 tasks
 - Limited knowledge of terminology related to instructions, for example: *before, after, first, second, next*.
 - Retelling the events of a story out of order or leaving out events
 - Difficulty acquiring and understanding classroom vocabulary
 - Difficulty referencing and relating pronouns to the correct subject
 - Difficulty summarizing main ideas and supporting details from an informational text.

The role of the Speech-Language Therapist in Intervention and Support in the classroom

- According to the *American Speech-Language-Hearing Association*, children with language-based needs will have difficulty reading and writing in the classroom.¹ Furthermore, children with specific receptive language needs will benefit from learning strategies to support classroom participation. The following can be addressed by the speech-language therapist:
 - Strategies for answering questions based on a story or article
 - Advocating and applying strategies for missed information during instructions
 - Comprehension skills for reading-based instruction
 - Annotating strategies
 - Searching for key information
 - Identifying the main idea
 - Differentiating of main idea versus details
 - Sequencing the main events of a text
 - Using context clues

¹ American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). *Spoken language disorders* [Practice portal]. <https://www.Practice-Portal/Clinical-Topics/Spoken-Language-Disorders/>

- Overall, a child with language-based needs can learn new strategies and skills to adapt and support their unique profile. If you're interested in Speech-Language services at AIM for your child, please contact supportservices@aimpa.org