

The "When to Get a Stuttering Evaluation" Rubric

Answer the questions below and follow the blue arrow to learn if and when you should have your child get a stuttering evaluation from a speech-language pathologist.

Time Since Stuttering Onset

Has it been more than 12 months since your child first started stuttering?

N Y

Client and/or Parent Concern

Has it been less than 12 months since your child first started stuttering but your child's exhibiting negative reactions to their stuttering (see italics) or you're extremely concerned about it?

N Y

- e.g. making frustrated remarks*
- e.g. crying when they get stuck*
- e.g. giving up on speaking, etc.*

Risk Factors For Persistent Stuttering

Has it been less than 12 months since your child first started stuttering but they have any of the following eight risk factors for persisting in stuttering?

1. Having any family history of stuttering
2. Being male
3. Having poorer articulation skills
4. Having a high percentage of stuttering-like disfluencies
5. Having poorer receptive language skills
6. Having poorer expressive language skills
7. Having stuttering start late (>3.5 years)
8. Having a sensitive temperament

N Y

N Y

N Y

N Y

N Y

N Y

N Y

N Y

N Y

Total "Y's" in the Grey Box — For every "Yes," subtract one month from 12 for how long to wait before an evaluation.

Get a Stuttering Evaluation

Donaghy, M. A., & Smith, K. A. (2016). Management options for pediatric patients who stutter: current challenges and future directions. *Pediatric health, medicine and therapeutics*, 7, 71.
 Singer, C. M., Hessling, A., Kelly, E. M., Singer, L., & Jones, R. M. (2020). Clinical characteristics associated with stuttering persistence: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research*, 63(9), 2995–3018.
 Guitar, B. (2013). *Stuttering: An integrated approach to its nature and treatment*. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.