



Janice M. Wnek, M.D.



YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Presented by the medical professionals at Midcoast Pediatrics

Stuttering

It is normal for many children (between the ages of two to five) to stutter occasionally. Stuttering is common way that the brain shows it is learning new ways to process language. However, parents often wonder if and when they should be concerned that their child might be developing a speech impairment. Warning signals that stuttering might be a problem include repetitions of the same syllable or sound (the "ba" part of ball or the "m" of mine), especially if the child is obviously struggling. Outward signs of stress, such as a rising pitch on the repeated sound or visible fear of speaking in public, might indicate the need for professional help. Children with relatives who stutter are more likely stutter.

P.S.: Always allow children who stutter time to gather their words and speak. It is important to be patient and allow children to express themselves.

Many children who start stuttering before age five will stop stuttering without any interventions. However, if you have concerns, or questions about speech or language therapy, call MIDCOAST PEDIATRICS at 207-721-8333 We are located at 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite 2600, Brunswick. New patients are always welcome.

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