



## Glossary of Terms: Middle Childhood Intervention

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

### A

#### **Abstract thinking**

The ability to grasp concepts, values or processes that cannot be experienced directly through the senses.

#### **Academic delays**

Academic delays are delays in the areas of reading, writing or math.

#### **Academic skills**

The skills required to do well in an educational setting. They include reading, writing, math, and so on.

#### **Adaptive equipment**

Adaptive equipment refers to tools or furniture that have unique features so that a child a physical, sensory, motor, language or cognitive disability can work on a given task. For example, pencils with the pencil holder, spoons with a bent handle, chairs with back support and straps, and others.

**Adaptive skills**

The ability to adjust to new situations and to apply familiar or new skills to those situations. These skills are required to perform everyday activities, such as communicating, dressing, and household tasks.

**Alliteration**

When two or more words starts with the same sound (for example jumping jaguars).

**Articulation**

The ability to produce and connect vowel and sounds.

**Assistive device**

An assistive device is a tool that helps the child perform motor movements.

**Auditory processing disorder**

*Auditory processing disorder or Central Auditory Processing Disorder (CAPD).* A disorder linked to the brain (and not to hearing). CAPD causes difficulty in processing and interpreting sounds, even though there is no hearing impairment. Causes for this disorder may include variations in brain development, inherited conditions, a head trauma, or lead poisoning. Children with a CAPD may be easily distracted, have difficulty following directions or conversations, become excessively upset by loud or unexpected noises. They behave in more appropriate ways when in a quieter or more organized setting.

**Autonomy**

Being able to do things on one's own.

**B**

**Braille**

## *MCI Glossary*

A communication system that is used by those who are blind or have low vision. It is also used by those who are deaf-blind. Braille characters (the equivalent of letters) are made up of raised dots that are arranged in a rectangular fashion. The person using Braille can “read” by moving his or her fingers over the raised dots.

### **Bully**

A bully is a child who terrorizes other children.

## **C**

### **Celiac disease**

This disease is caused by the digestive system (intestine) not absorbing certain foods because of gluten (wheat) sensitivity. Celiac disease causes diarrhea, dehydration, vitamin and mineral deficiencies, and loss of weight or failure to gain weight. Children usually respond favorably to a gluten-free diet. Celiac Disease is an inborn error of metabolism.

### **Class inclusion**

The understanding that some classes or sets of objects are also sub-class of a larger class. For example, roses are a sub-class of a larger class called flowers.

### **Cochlear Implant**

An electronic device that provides some children who are deaf with a sense of sound. It has two parts. One part that is placed right behind the ear, and that is visible to the outside world, and another part that is surgically placed under the skin.

### **Cognitive development**

The developmental area that involves thinking skills, including the ability to receive, process, analyze, and understand information.

**Communicate with others**

This is in contrast to just talking to themselves or to repeating words or sentences without a purpose.

**Communication board**

A low-tech device that enables individuals who are non-verbal to communicate with others. The board can have either pictures, words or letters. The person using it simply points to a picture, letter or word, in order communicate with others.

**Computed Axial Tomography (CAT)**

Also known as CAT SCAN. This is a diagnostic procedure in which a computerized machine creates pictures of cross sections of the body. These images of tissues are produced by passing x-ray beams at various angles through the area of the body to be studied.

**Concrete operations**

Logical thinking is starting about objects, people and events. For example a child will understand that her dog is a poodle, that a poodle is a dog, and that a dog is an animal.

**Congenital anomalies**

A problem present at birth, such as congenital heart disease or cleft palate. A congenital anomaly can be inherited (genetic), occur due to a factor of the pregnancy (such as maternal illness, drug use, x-ray exposure, or physical factors in the uterus), result from a chromosomal (gene) abnormality, or occur during childbirth.

**Crawl and Cruise**

Crawling is what a baby does when he/she moves around, on all fours, while using both his hands and legs. Cruising is when the baby is upright and moving around while holding on to furniture.

**Curfew**

Curfew is the time the child must be home if out at night with friends, as set by his or her parents or guardians.

**D**

**Decibel**

A unit used to measure the intensity of a sound.

**Decoding new words**

Divide new words into smaller sections, so they can be easily read.

**Defiant**

Does not follow rules and requests, on purpose.

**Disorder**

Disorder means that something is disturbing a normal or regular function.

**Dominant genes**

A gene that overrides any recessive gene. It is paired with in determining what characteristics or condition a child inherits from her parents. For example, the gene for brown eyes is dominant over the gene for blue eyes, so a child who inherits one gene for brown eyes and one for blue eyes will have brown eyes (see Human genes and Recessive genes).

**DSM-IV-TR (2000)**

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of psychological disorders.

## **E**

### **Eczema**

Eczema (pronounced: ek-zeh-ma) is a group of skin conditions that cause skin to become red, irritated, itchy, and sometimes develop small, fluid-filled bumps that become moist and ooze.

### **Electroencephalography (EEG)**

A test to study the electrical impulses produced by the activity of the brain. Electrodes attached to a recording machine are applied to the person's scalp. The machine measures the brain's electrical impulses. These are displayed on a printout. Electroencephalography is useful in diagnosing certain conditions, including epilepsy and certain tumors.

### **Expressive language**

The ability to communicate thoughts and feelings by gesture, sign language, verbal expression, or written expression.

## **F**

### **Family therapy**

Family therapy is a type of therapy that involves the entire family. That is, all or some members of a family attend therapy sessions together. Children who are abused or have certain types of mental illness usually attend family therapy sessions with their parents or primary caregivers.

### **Fidgety**

Fidgety means that the child keeps moving and twisting showing he or she is not conformable in that place.

**Fine motor skills**

The developmental area that involves skills which require the coordination of the small muscles of the body, such as the hands and face.

**FM systems**

FM refers to **frequency modulation (FM)** where information is conveyed over a carrier wave by varying its instantaneous frequency. FM systems consist An assistive listening device worn by the speaker to amplify his/her voice and transmit it directly to the listener's ears via an electronic receiver and special earphones or the listener's own hearing aids. The device reduces the problem of background noise interference and the problem of distance between speaker and hearing-impaired listener or a walkie-talkie.

**Functional skills**

These are skills that are needed for daily functioning, like grasping with fingers, chewing food with teeth, and others.

**G**

**Genetic risk conditions**

These are conditions that are genetic in nature. That is, there is something different about the child's genetic make-up, which makes him or him at risk for developmental delays.

**Gross motor skills**

The developmental area that involves skills which require the coordination of large muscle groups, such as those in the arms, legs and trunk.

## **H**

### **Hearing aids**

A device for amplifying sound. Although the sound becomes louder, it does not make it clearer). For the child to benefit from hearing aids, she must have some degree of hearing.

### **how much” or “how many” words**

These are known as qualitative concepts.

### **Human genes**

The basic unit of inheritance that carries individual traits from parent to child. The gene is capable of reproducing itself at each cell division. Each gene is located at a specific point on a particular chromosome and consists primarily of DNA and protein.

### **Humorous way**

This means that they use language for fun.

### **Hypersensitive**

The term “hyper” refers to an extreme high sensation or response. Children who are hypersensitive may show strong reactions to different temperatures, flavours, textures, sounds and light conditions and other sensations. These reactions may appear out of proportion to adults and caregivers who are unaware of the child’s sensitivity level. (See Temperament)

### **Hyposensitive**

The term “hypo” refers to an extreme low sensation or response. Children who are hyposensitive may indicate little or no responses when experiencing different temperatures, flavours, textures, sounds and light conditions and other sensations.



Adults may not understand whether or not the child like or dislike the sensation, and even if the child feels pain or not. (See Temperament)

## **I**

### **Imitating**

This means they copy what others do; for example actions, sounds, gestures.

### **Impulse control**

The ability to control a sudden, spontaneous, irresistible urge, desire or action. For example: I found out that my sister was eavesdropping on my phone call and it made me really angry. I stopped to think, breathe, and then explained her calmly why she made me feel so upset.

### **Individual Education Plan (IEP)**

The IEP is a legal document that children with a special needs designation get, when they attend school. The IEP provides information about the child's current level of functioning, his or her skills and needs, what goals and objectives he or she will be expected to achieve, during the academic year, and which special education professionals will help the child reach those goals. For more information about the IEP, please visit the BC ministry of education's [IEP website](#).

### **Intellectual disability**

An intellectual disability is another term for Mental Retardation. Intellectual disabilities are disabilities that mainly affect the child's cognitive development. That is, they affect the child's ability to think, process information and solve problems. An example of an intellectual disability is having Down syndrome.

### **Intonation**

This refers to the tone of someone's voice (low or high or flat).

### **Intelligence Quotient (IQ test)**

An IQ test is a type of test that measures a child's cognitive skills. IQ tests are usually standardized and norm-referenced. Standardized means that the test is administered in a very specific way, by a qualified professional. Norm-referenced means that the child's performance is measured against the performance of other children his or her age. An IQ test is one of the measures used to determine whether or not a child has an intellectual disability.

## **L**

### **Language for social reasons**

This is in contrast to just talking to themselves or to repeating words or sentences without a purpose.

### **Larynx**

Also called "voice box." A tube-shaped organ in the neck that contains the vocal cords

### **Learned helplessness.**

Learning that one cannot do anything at all, and therefore that one is helpless. This usually happens to children when they experience one failure after another.

## **M**

### **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)**

A diagnostic procedure (for example, for muscle lesions or bone fractures, tumours and others) that involves creating cross-sectional images of body organs and structures. The patient lies inside a large magnet structure. The patient is then exposed to a magnetic field with radio waves (and not radiation). MRE uses the body's hydrogen ions. Images or "maps" are created when these ions move while exposed to radio waves. Radio waves produce a radio signal that is detected and

changed by computer to an image. Body tissue that contains a large amount of hydrogen is dark.

**Make inferences**

A mental process by which we reach a conclusion based on specific evidence. For example: if you see that the oven is on and it's on high temperatures then it is probably hot.

**Mental disorders**

Mental disorders are disorders of the mind. They include anxiety-based disorders and mood disorders.

**Motor skills**

The learned ability to perform movements such as holding the body in an upright position, using the hands to handle small toys, eating with a spoon and moving the lips and tongue to express different sounds.

**N**

**Neuro-transmitters**

Chemicals that transmit signals in different parts of the brain.

**Non-organic failure to thrive**

A child who fails to grow and gain weight, despite being medically healthy.

**Nystagmus**

Nystagmus is continuous uncontrolled to and fro movement of the eyes. The movements may be in any direction. This means that the eyes will look like they are moving from side to side or up and down or even in circles. Most people with nystagmus have reduced vision.

## P

### **Panic Attack**

Feeling that one is trapped.

### **Peripheral nervous system**

The nerves that branch out from the central nervous system and connect the brain and the spinal cord to the rest of the body.

### **Phonemes**

The smallest segmental unit in the sound system of a language (for example, baby has four phonemes).

### **PKU**

Stands for *Phenylketonuria*. An autosomal recessive disorder where the body cannot break down the amino-acid called “phenylalanine,” found in most protein food sources including dairy and meats. Phenylalanine then will build-up in the body. If the condition is not diagnosed soon after birth, the build-up leads to mental retardation, progressive neurologic impairment, and seizures. With very early diagnosis, the resulting symptoms can be prevented by restricting the infant’s intake of phenylalanine (which is found in most protein food sources). Newborns are now routinely for PKU. The **(PKU) test** collects drops of blood from the newborn’s heel and will check if he/she has the enzyme needed to use phenylalanine in his or her body.

### **Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan**

A diagnostic imaging technique used to study the metabolic and chemical activity of tissue, especially that of the brain, heart, and blood vessels. PET scanning visualizes the organ, producing 3-dimensional color images.

**Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)**

PTSD is a type of anxiety disorder. It is usually experienced by individuals who have gone through a traumatic experience or event. PTSD symptoms include having flashbacks (that is, experiencing the traumatic event, in their mind, over and over again) and feeling scared of ordinary situations.

**Psychosomatic**

A physical symptom (such as a stomach ache) that has a psychological rather than a physiological (physical) cause, although the person continues to feel the symptom.

**Pragmatics**

The understanding of how and why language is used.

**Pretend play**

Pretend play is a form of voluntary play activity in which the children take on roles and pretend to be someone else such as mothers, teachers or doctors as part of a story line that is related to their world (Chance, 1979; Freeman-Davidson, 2006; Monaghan-Nourot, 2006; Smilansky, 1968)

**R**

**Receptive language**

The ability to understand what is being expressed in verbal and non-verbal communication.

**Recessive genes**

A gene (unit of heredity) capable of producing an effect in the organism (such as the human body) only when it is transmitted to the offspring by both parents. (See Dominant gene and Human gene).

**Resentful**

A negative emotion that can be the result of jealousy or anger.

**Resilient**

A quality conveyed through feelings, thoughts, and behaviors that assists the ability to overcome difficulties.

**Rough and tough play**

Physically and energetic behaviors such as chase, jump and play fight, that come with by positive affect from the players towards one another.

**S**

**Scribble**

The child uses the pencil or crayon to doodle on any surface (paper, board, or the wall!).

**Seizure**

A seizure is abnormal electrical activity in the brain that may cause convulsions. The cause is unknown but seizures can occur for many reasons.

**Selective attention**

The ability to concentrate on relevant sensory input while ignoring irrelevant input. For example if they are busy playing a game with their friend they will ignore the TV sound from the other room.

**Self-esteem**

The perception and value of him or herself when compared with a particular reference group.

**Self-soothe**

The ability to calm oneself down.

**Sensory processing difficulties**

A child's difficulty to receive, interpret, organize, and respond sensory input affecting the central nervous system. Sensory processing difficulty is commonly observed as a child's behavior when he experiences a sensation by touching it, seeing it, hearing it, smelling it, tasting it, or feeling it (vestibular/proprioception systems). (See Auditory Processing Disorder).

**Sentence**

Sentences have a subject (S), or someone doing the action, a verb, or action (V), and a predicate (P), or what happens or the content of the sentence: for example, "My friend loves to read books" (S V P).

**Sight words**

Words that the reader can recognize automatically without having to "sound them out" (for example: I, he, to, in).

**Simple procedures or operations**

The specific steps for putting a specific concept into effect.

**Social/emotional skills**

The developmental area that involves the development of self-concept and the skills that allow the child to function in a group that to interact properly with others.

**Strabismus**

Strabismus is a disorder in which the two eyes do not line up in the same direction, and therefore do not look at the same at the same time. The condition is more commonly known as 'crossed eyes'.

## **T**

### **Theory of mind**

Theory of mind is a cognitive skill that develops when the child is around 4 years old. The child is able to have understanding of other's people perspectives and feelings.

### **Tracing**

Tracing involves writing a word that has already been traced with dots.

## **W**

### **“Wh” Questions**

Wh questions are questions that start with: What, where, when, why.

### **Words that describe objects**

These are known as qualitative concepts

### **Words that describe space and/or distance**

These are known as spatial concepts



## **Glossary Sources**

In addition to the references cited throughout the Online Learning modules, including *The Early Intervention Dictionary* by Jeanine G. Coleman, 2006 edition, the following online resources have been consulted to compile this Glossary:

- Merriam-Webster Dictionary online
- Wikipedia
- ACCESS Colorado State University (online)