

# Using Usborne Books with Special Needs Populations

By Suzanne Hawkins and Susan Wandishin

## Key definitions for “Speech and Language”:

- Speech Pathologist/Speech Therapist – A professional who specializes in treatment of children and adults with speech and language disabilities.
- Articulation and Phonology Disorders – Difficulties in producing sounds or related groups of sounds
- Language Disorder (or Delay) – The development of language skills (the use and/or understanding of vocabulary, prepositions, descriptors, sentence structure, etc.) that differs from what is expected at specific age levels. This includes oral and written language skills.
- Fluency - “Stuttering”
- Aphasia - Impaired communication skills caused by stroke
- Apraxia – Difficulty sequencing the motor movements necessary to produce speech sounds (usually due to a neurological cause)

## Features that make Usborne Books ideal for “Speech and Language”:

- “Talk-about” realistic **illustrations** are filled with action and detail.
- Usborne books are **interactive** as communications is interactive.
- **Step-by-step** features are perfect for sequencing.
- **Problem-solving** tasks are built into Usborne at many levels.
- **Multifunctional** – one book can be used for a variety of goals!
- **Durable and inexpensive!**

## Top 11 Series or Books and their features

- First 100 Words (p. 33)– “Talk-about” pictures of everyday activities for use with language, articulation, and phonology goals. Sticker book version is perfect to make any therapy session interactive.
- Everyday Words (p. 70)– Detailed claymation scenes, appropriate for all age levels and language goals. Also ideal for written language with key vocabulary provided in margins. It becomes a game board or even more interactive with a sticker book!
- First 1000 Words (H), Sticker book and CD-ROM (p. 60, 71) – Includes pages categorized by scene, as well as, pages about opposites, seasons, actions, sizes and more. Perfect for vocabulary, articulation, language goals for pre-K through adult.
- Slot books (p. 39)– All 5 slot books are perfect for the interactive nature of therapy. They elicit language through actions of moving the character, are filled with concept vocabulary, and make books come alive for children who are not book-lovers. (Turn-taking and social gestures also reinforced.)
- Lift the Flap (p. 39)– Interactive stories with rhyming, predictable text. Action-filled illustrations elicit language, questions, and the hidden characters are perfect for reinforcing prepositions.
- Easy Words to Read (p. 35)– Rhyming text is perfect for phonemic awareness. Also, ideal for simple narratives, prediction, artic and phonology, etc.
- Touchy-Feely (p. 23, 30) – Perfect for negation, descriptive words, turn-taking, and predictable language structures.
- Farmyard Tales (p. 26)– Perfect for early sequencing of actions, narratives, articulation carryover, and early story retelling and expansion with the double language level provided.
- What’s Happening? (p. 37)– Detailed illustrations elicit questions and answers, predicting, descriptions, storytelling with one picture, and more!
- Puzzle Books (p. 41, 47, 63-65)– Problem-solving, predicting, attention to detail, auditory memory, and sequencing are just a few of the skills in these series!
- What Shall I? And Playtime (p. 40, 49) – Step-by-step projects are perfect for extension activities, sequencing, and retelling.

## Using Usborne Books with Special Needs Populations, page 2

Learning Disabilities (LD): A learning disability is a specific brain dysfunction that affects one or more areas including reading, writing and math.

### Top 13 Series for LD

Easy Words to Read (p. 35)  
What's Happening? (p. 37)  
First Experiences (p. 38)  
First Encyclopedias (p. 44)  
Flip-Flap Learners (p. 45)  
Learning Wrap-Ups (p. 59)  
Cooking School (p. 61)  
Fantasy Adventures (p. 64)  
Spotter's Guides (p. 69)  
Better English (p. 75)  
Discovery Series (p. 79)  
Real Tales (p. 86)  
Computer Guides (p. 96)

### Features of series

phonics, hi/lo, duck  
language development, duck  
dual reader, duck  
bite-size pieces, hi/lo  
bite-size pieces, hi/lo  
kinesthetic, self-correcting  
step by step, activity based  
hot topic, activity based  
activity based, success built in  
provides practice for skills  
I-L, hi/lo  
non-fiction, action  
computer activities

Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD): ADD is a medical condition that impairs the ability to concentrate and complete tasks. ADHD is ADD paired with a need for constant activity.

### Top 10 Series for AD/HD

1 2 3, A B C (p. 36)  
Slot Books (p. 39)  
Puzzle Books (p. 41, 47, 63)  
Great Searches (p. 42)  
What Shall I Do Today? (p. 49)  
Learning Wrap-Ups (p. 59)  
Fantasy Adventures (p. 64)  
Spotter's Guides (p. 69)  
Everyday Words (p. 70)  
Discovery Series (p. 79)

### Features of series

constant practice, duck, hi/lo  
visual tracking, activity based, hi/lo  
activity based, hi/lo  
activity based, hi/lo, bite size pieces  
activity based, step by step  
kinesthetic, self-correcting  
hot topic, activity based  
activity based, success built in  
language development, activity based  
I-L, hi/lo

Sensory Integration Disorder (SID): SID is a disorder of the central nervous system that causes messages from the senses to become confused. This can be a hyper (over) or hypo (under) reaction.

### Top 10 Series for SID

FYT Sticker Learning (p. 27)  
Touchy-Feely (p. 30) Hypo  
Slot Books (p. 39)  
Playtime (p. 40)  
Flip-Flaps (p. 45)  
What Shall I Do Today? (p. 49)  
Cooking (p. 61)  
Book of the Seasons (p. 79)  
Science Activities (p. 88)  
Science for Beginners (p. 91)

### Features of series

Fine motor skills, activity based learning  
Provides stimulus for CNS  
Fine motor skills, activity based learning  
Fine motor skills, encourages varied play  
Explains body and CNS  
Fine motor skills, activity based  
Fine motor skills, encourages working with texture  
Activity based play, textures  
Activity based learning, textures  
Explains body and CNS

## Using Usborne Books with Special Needs Populations, page 3

### **Key Definitions Related to Autism:**

- Autism- A developmental disorder that primarily affects communication and social skills and is typically present before age 3. It has a broad range of severity from mild to severe, thus the term “autism spectrum disorder.”
- PDD (Pervasive Developmental Disorder) – PDD is a wide umbrella term for general disorders that affect communication and social skills. While autism is a pervasive developmental disorder, PDD can be used to describe children of a very broad range of abilities and disabilities.
- Asperger’s Disorder – A disorder of social interactions and restricted interests without clinical impairment of language skills. People with Asperger’s disorder typically have above average intelligence.

### **Top 10 Series for Autism**

Language Books (First 100 Words p, 30,  
First 1000 Words p 71, Everyday Words p 70)  
Touch-Feely (p. 23, 30)  
Easy Words to Read (p. 35)  
First Experiences (p. 38)  
1001 Things to Spot  
Puzzle Books (p. 41, 47, 63-65)  
Great Searches (p. 42)  
First Encyclopedias (p. 44)  
Art books (p. 52-53)  
Personal Interests and Goals

### **Features of series**

Vocabulary builders, picture exploration,  
language development, CD-ROM available  
Textures, descriptor words  
Rhyme, phonemic awareness, pre-reading skills  
Rehearsing and talking about new situations  
Independent, visual based activity, categorizing  
Problem-solving, predicting, cognitive activities  
Independent, visual based activity, bite size  
Visually stimulating, bite size pieces  
Independent, repetitive motion activity  
Ask!

## **Top 5 Key Ideas for Working with Parents and Professionals of Special Needs Children**

1. You don’t have to know all the verbiage or have all the answers.
2. You are providing an *extremely* valuable service by getting these books into kid’s hands.
3. Ask questions before you give answers.
4. Don’t be afraid to approach this market. It is huge and untapped.
5. We have a 100% satisfaction guarantee. Therefore, your only mistake would be not trying.

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- **Mental Retardation (MR):** Also known as Cognitive Disabilities, MR refers to substantial limitations in functioning characterized by significantly below average intelligence along with limitations in adaptive skills (communication, self-care, home living, social skills, community use, self-direction, health and safety, functional academics, leisure, and/or work).
- **Features of MR:**
  - IQ below 70
  - Difficulty with social skills
  - Wide range of abilities, from moderate to severe and profound
  - Different types of MR: Cerebral Palsy, Down's Syndrome, etc.

#### Mental Retardation – Top 10 Series

- Rattle Books (p. 31)
- First 100 or 1,000 Words (p. 33, 71)
- What's Happening? (p. 37)
- 1001 Things to Spot (p. 38)
- First Experiences (p. 38)
- Great Searches (p. 42)
- First Encyclopedias (p. 44)
- Flashcards (p. 70)
- Everyday Words (p. 70)
- Science Activities (p. 88)

- **Behavioral Disorders (BD):** Also known as Emotional Disturbances (ED). BD refers to specific behaviors that are severe and exhibited over an extended period of time. These include: difficulties in building or maintaining satisfactory interpersonal relationships; a general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; and/or a tendency to develop physical symptoms, pains, or fears associated with personal or social problems.

- **Features of BD:**
  - Severe, long-term problems
  - Inappropriate anger
  - Does not trust authority
  - Violence and profanity
  - Apathy and/or depression
  - Need to be in control
  - Self-destructive (drugs, fighting, self-mutilation, suicide)
  - Often medicated

#### Behavioral Disorders – Top 10 Series

- Slot Books (p. 39)
- First Encyclopedias (p. 44)
- First Skills (p. 46)
- Young Machines (p. 49)
- Art School (p. 52)
- Fantasy Adventures (p. 64)
- Spotter's Guides (p. 69)
- Discovery Series (p. 79)
- Real Tales (p. 86)
- Computer Guides (p. 96)

- At-risk children are those whose family environment, socioeconomic status, and/or behavioral history place them at a high probability of failing or dropping out of school.
- Hi-lo Readers are books with high interest levels that require low reading abilities.

At Risk/Hi-Lo Readers – Top 10 Series

- FYT Readers (p. 26)
- Easy Words to Read (p. 35)
- Slot Books (p. 39)
- Great Searches (p. 42)
- First Encyclopedias (p. 44)
- Flip Flaps (p. 45)
- Art School (p. 52)
- Solve It Yourself (p. 64)
- Spotter's Guides (p. 69)
- Discovery Series (p. 79)