

WORD FINDING REFERRAL CHECKLIST INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION

WORD-FINDING DISORDERS

“Word-finding” is the ability to retrieve and say, without hesitation, a desired word or phrase. Difficulty in word-finding is a significant oral language problem that interferes with everyday communication and requires intervention. In young people, it impacts academic learning, interferes with interpersonal communication, and, if untreated, remains into adulthood. In adults, this difficulty impedes free expression in both personal and professional situations. The first step toward intervention is to observe children and adults for word-finding disorders.

OVERVIEW OF THE CHECKLIST

The *Word Finding Referral Checklist* is a tool for checking the oral language of youngsters or adults (ages 5 to 90 years) for the presence of word-finding behaviors. The purpose of the checklist is to provide professionals, parents, and other caregivers with a systematic procedure for identifying those who may need assessment of word-finding skills. It consists of a list of characteristics that, when present in a subject’s oral language, may suggest word-finding difficulties in two possible contexts.

Single-Word Retrieval Contexts

Word-finding difficulties in single word contexts may suggest difficulty retrieving and expressing single words. This type of difficulty is suggested on the *Word Finding Referral Checklist* by the presence of a specific pattern of responses to checklist items.

Discourse Contexts

Word-finding problems in discourse contexts may suggest difficulty retrieving and expressing words in connected speech. This type of behavior is suggested on the *Word Finding Referral Checklist* by the presence of another specific pattern of responses to checklist questions.

ABOUT THE SENIOR AUTHOR

Diane J. German, Ph.D. serves as Professor and holds the Endowed Chair of Special Education at National-Louis University, Evanston, Illinois. She received her Ph.D. in Communicative Disorders from Northwestern University. For the past seventeen years, she has conducted research on children challenged with word-finding difficulties, published numerous articles and technical papers, and conducted innumerable workshops and seminars regarding word-finding disorders in children and adolescents. Dr. German serves as editorial consultant for *Language, Speech, and Hearing Services in the Schools* and for the *American Journal of Speech and Language Pathology*. She is author of the *Test of Word Finding* (TWF), the *Test of Adolescent/Adult Word Finding* (TAWF), and the *Test of Word Finding in Discourse* (TWFD), all nationally standardized tests of word-finding skills.