

Dictionary: For Parents of Children with Disabilities

Dictionary: For Parents of Children with Disabilities includes terminology used within the fields of: Testing/Evaluation, Early Intervention, Special Education and Related Services, Medical and Therapeutic Services, Family Supports and Resources, Vocational Training, Independent Living, Guardianship, and Insurance. It was compiled and developed by: "Building a Winning Team: The M.V.P. (Most Valuable Parent) Project", Juli Schlaht, Parent Information Specialist. Dictionary: For Parents of Children with Disabilities is supported by the South Dakota Department of Special Education and Cultural Affairs: Office of Special Education.

Dictionary: For Parents of Children with Disabilities is presented here in it's entirety with the approval and cooperation of the South Dakota Department of Special Education and Cultural Affairs: Office of Special Education.

A

A & A: Aid and Attendance.

A & D: Alcohol and drug.

A/R: Applicant/Recipient.

AAMR: See "American Association on Mental Retardation".

AAMR Adaptive Behavior Scale: A scale developed by the American Association on Mental Retardation to assess the ability of a person to interact appropriately with his or her environment.

AAVA: Aid and Attendance Veteran's Administration.

abduction: The act of turning outward; the movement of part from the axis (midline) of the body.

aberration: Deviation from what is common or normal, either physical or mental.

ABIC: Adaptive Behavior Inventory for Children.

abnormal behavior: A general term referring to behavior that is unusual to the degree that it exceeds the boundaries of what society views as normal.

ABR: See "Auditory Brainstem Response".

abruptio placenta: Premature detachment of a normally situated placenta.

ABS: See "Adaptive Behavior Scale".

absolute threshold: The faintest level at which a listener can detect 50% of the signals presented.

abstract: 1. An idea or an image of a situation, symbol, or object that can be selected from any specific attributes in an environment. 2. Sometimes used to refer to complex ideas, generally of symbolic origin, that tend to be difficult to understand.

abstract intelligence/reasoning: The intellectual ability to understand relationships and to react, not only to concrete objects, but also to concepts, ideas, images, and symbols that are more intangible objects. Abstraction is the process of selecting or isolating a certain aspect from a concrete whole, i.e., all ducks are birds, but not all birds are ducks.

academic achievement: Refers to the level of proficiency in academic subjects such as math and reading.

academic disadvantaged: As used in Vocational Education, a person in a secondary agency who, based upon the results of standardized tests, is two grade levels below grade placement in readings skills, writing skills, or math skills or who is receiving a grade of D or below in a vocational class and needs support services to succeed in that class. In a postsecondary or state agency, a person who performs at or below the 25th percentile on a standardized achievement or aptitude test in reading skills, writing skills, or math skills who is receiving a grade of D or below in a vocational class and needs support services to succeed in that class.

acataphasia: 1. Disability characterized by difficulties with phrasing and sentence structure of speech. 2. Inability to express ideas logically.

acceleration: A process whereby students are allowed to achieve at a rate that is constant with their capacity, i.e., faster than average students.

accepting assignment: A provider who accepts CHAMPUS assignment (who participates) agrees to accept the CHAMPUS allowable charge as the full fee and cannot charge the patient the difference between the provider's charge and the allowable charge.

access device: Refers to specific types of equipment or methodology which enables a blind/visually impaired individual to gain knowledge and use of information and opportunities that are readily available to the general population. Examples include: a) use of braille or enlarged print for reading and writing, b) specially marked household appliances, c) talking clocks and watches.

ACCH: See "Association for the Care of Children's Health".

accident insurance: A form of health insurance against loss by bodily injury.

accidental bodily injury: Generally, traumatic damage to the body, of external origins, unexpected and unintended by the injured person.

accommodation: The response or the motor process of adjusting the body to react to the incoming stimulation.

accountability: Being accountable or responsible for the moral and legal requirements of proper patient care.

Accreditation Council (ACD): A council which publishes national standards by which institutions such as Adjustment Training Centers are evaluated and accredited.

ACD: See "Accreditation Council".

acetaminophen: A medication used to control fever and pain; it has a different chemical structure than aspirin and fewer side effects.

achievement discrepancy: A difference between a child's performance and his or her measured potential. The term is used in learning disabilities and generally refers to academic performance lower than expected.

acouesthesia: Acute sense of hearing.

acoupedic method: A technique of teaching hearing impaired children to speak and use their hearing. It emphasizes auditory training begun early and used alone rather than combined with visual training.

acoustic: Pertaining to sound. It generally applies to properties or physical characteristics associated with sound.

acoustic aids: Any means of assisting a person to hear.

ACS: Army Community Services.

ACSW: See "Association of Certified Social Workers".

Act: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, as amended, enacted as section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act as in effect April 11, 1988.

acting out: Expressions of unconscious emotional conflicts or feelings in actions rather than words (self-abusive, aggressive, violent and/or disruptive behaviors). The person is not consciously aware of the meaning of such acts. Acting out may be harmful or, in controlled situations, therapeutic (e.g., children's play). Refers especially to acting out of transference wishes and emotions.

active range of motion: Independent movement of body parts through an arc.

active-duty service member: A person who is serving full-time in a uniformed service under orders that do not specify 30 days or less.

activities of daily living (ADL): Include the following: grooming, oral hygiene, bathing, toilet hygiene, dressing, feeding/eating, medication routine, socialization, functional communication, functional mobility, sexual expression.

activity group therapy: A group-oriented approach used for treatment of youngsters with behavior disorders.

acute: Intense and of short duration, usually said of a disease. Marked by sudden onset, sharp rise, and lasting a short time, demanding urgent attention.

acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL): A disorder of blood-cell production in which abnormal white blood cells accumulate in the blood and bone marrow.

acute schizophrenia: A type of schizophrenia characterized by the sudden onset of symptoms, often associated with confusion, perplexity, ideas of reference, emotional turmoil, excitement, depression, fear of dreamlike dissociation. See also schizophreniform disorder.

ADA: See "Americans with Disabilities Act".

adaptive behavior: A parameter of classification that refers to one's ability to be socially appropriate and personally responsible.

Adaptive Behavior Scale (ABS): Used as an assessment tool.

adaptive equipment: Fabricated devices or addition to equipment that better enhances function while taking into consideration physical abilities, energy expenditures, coziness, resources, time expenditure, and space. See also "access device" or "assistive device".

adaptive fit: Compatibility between demands of a task or setting and a person's needs and abilities.

Adaptive Learning Environments Program (ALEP): A program for students with learning and behavior disorders that is based on the concept of adaptive fitting. See "adaptive fit".

adaptive physical education: Physical education that has been modified (adapted) to meet the needs and disabilities of exceptional youngsters.

ADC: Aid to Dependent Children Program. Refer to "Aid to Families with Dependent Children" (AFDC).

ADD: See "Attention Deficit Disorder", or "Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder" (ADHD).

addiction: The total preoccupation of a thing for which an individual develops a habit that he/she is compulsively dependent upon. The thing or object could be a chemical, person, or activity (TV, work). Abstinence may cause withdrawal symptoms.

additions: An articulation error that occurs when extra sounds are articulated in words where they need not appear.

adduction: A movement toward a median line or axis (midline) of the body.

ADHD: See "Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder".

adjudicated: Coming under the protection or guardianship and jurisdiction of the court.

adjunctive dental care: Dental care that is medically necessary for the treatment of an otherwise covered medical and not dental condition, e.g., the removal of broken teeth following an auto accident.

adjusted age: Age in weeks from conception. Computed by adding number of weeks from conception to birth and number of weeks from birth to date of computation. Used with premature infants.

adjustment disorder: Maladaptive reaction in adolescents to an identifiable source.

ADL: See "activities of daily living".

Administrator: In relation to estate planning, if a person does not write a Will, the person that the courts will appoint to handle the deceased person's estate according to the laws of the state.

adopted child: A child taken into a family through a legal adoption process. For military families under the CHAMPUS program, eligibility begins at 12:01 a.m., on the day of the final adoption decree.

adrenalin: A potent stimulant of the autonomic nervous system. It increase blood pressure, heart rate, and other physiological changes needed for a "fight or flight" response.

Adult Foster Care (AFC): A program through the Department of Social Services which enables adults with disabilities to live within a family environment. Training is provided to the foster families so they can better meet the individual's needs.

adult service agencies: Agencies whose major focus is on providing the necessary services to assist individuals with disabilities to become more independent.

adult services: Services pertaining to independent living, vocational development, preemployment services, or employment services designed for persons 16 years of age or older.

adventiciously deaf: Those who are born with normal hearing, but in whom the sense of hearing became nonfunctional later through illness or accident.

adventitious: Accidental; acquired; not hereditary.

adventitious deaf-blindness: An individual that experiences both visual and hearing losses as an adult. Most common cause is infection or trauma.

adventitious hearing loss: A loss of hearing occurring any time after birth.

advocacy: The process of actively speaking out, writing in favor of, supporting, and/or acting on behalf of oneself, another person, or a cause. Advocacy can be any action to assure the best possible services for or intervention in the service system on behalf of an individual or group. See also: citizen advocacy, crisis advocacy, dispersed advocacy, expressive (guide-) advocacy, instrumental (guide-) advocacy, Protection and Advocacy, self-advocacy, systems advocacy, and youth advocacy.

advocate: 1. Anyone who speaks or acts on behalf of oneself, another person, or a cause. See also: advocate-friend, associate advocates, citizen advocate, guide-advocate, and spouse advocate. 2. In relation to estate planning, a person or institution that will serve as a friend and look out for the best interests of the disabled person. The advocate is not court appointed. In some cases where the disabled person can manage most of their own affairs, an advocate from a charitable organization may be more appropriate than a legal conservator/guardian.

advocate - friend: An expressive advocate in an informal role.

AER: Army Emergency Relief.

AFC: See "Adult Foster Care".

AFDC: See "Aid to Families with Dependent Children".

affect: An immediately expressed and observed emotion. A feeling state becomes an affect when it is observable, for example, as overall demeanor or tone and modulation of voice. Affect is to be distinguished from mood, which refers to a pervasive and sustained emotion. Affect is to mood as weather is to climate. Common examples of affect are euphoria, anger and sadness.

affective: Related to or arising from feelings, emotions, or attitudes.

affective disorder: A disorder of mood (feeling, emotion). Refers to a disturbance of mood and other symptoms that occur together for minimal duration of time and are not due to other physical or mental illness.

AFO's: See "ankle-foot orthosis".

age appropriate: Activities, materials, curriculum, and environment consistent with the chronological age of the child being served.

agitation: See "psychomotor agitation".

agonist: The muscle directly engaged in contraction.

Aid to Dependent Children (ADC): Name commonly used for the "Aid to Families with Dependent Children" (AFDC) Program. Refer to "Aid to Families with Dependent Children".

Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC): A program through the Department of Social Services which provides financial assistance for needy children and families who are deprived of support due to a parent's incapacity or absence.

aided: Pertaining to hearing as improved by a hearing aid.

air-bone gap: The number of dB by which air-conduction thresholds exceed bone-conductive thresholds, ordinarily for puretones, in the same ear. It denotes conductive pathology when the difference averages 10 or more dB.

akathisia: Motor restlessness ranging from a feeling of inner disquiet (often localized in the muscles) to an inability to sit still or lie quietly; a side effect of some antipsychotic drugs.

akinesia: A state of motor inhibition; reduced voluntary movement.

akinetic seizure: A seizure that is evidenced by an absence or poverty of repetitive or clonic movements.

ALEP: See "Adaptive Learning Environments Program".

ALL: See "acute lymphocytic leukemia".

Alliance for the Mentally Ill (AMI): See "National Alliance for the Mentally Ill" (NAMI).

amblyopia: Loss of vision due to an imbalance of eye muscles.

ambulatory: Being able to move from place to place with or without assistive devices.

amendment: A change, revision, or addition made to a law.

Amendments to the Education of the Handicapped Act, 1986: Public law 99-457, which extended the authority of P.L. 94-142 to ages three through five and established an early intervention program for infants and toddlers ages birth through two.

amentia: General term for mental impairment which may be a result of congenital or developmental factors.

American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR): An organization of professionals from many disciplines involved in the study and treatment of mental retardation. Previously this organization was named the American Association on Mental Deficiency (AAMD).

American Sign Language (ASL): A visual language (uses hand gestures) for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired that contains its own vocabulary, grammar, idioms, and syntax. Its vocabulary and grammar differ from the English language. ASL is the most common form of sign language used in the United States. Also referred to as "sign language".

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA): The national professional organization for practitioners in the fields of audiology and speech-language pathology. This organization certifies its members, and sets academic standards by accrediting colleges and universities for their graduate programs in audiology and speech-language pathology. They are also responsible for accreditation of clinical programs, continuing education, and community awareness; they maintain journals and other publications and have a voice on Capitol Hill.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Federal legislation that gives civil rights protection to individuals with disabilities. Enacted into law July, 1990.

Ameslan: The nickname for American Sign Language.

AMI: See "Alliance for the Mentally Ill".

amniocentesis: A prenatal assessment of a fetus which involves analysis of amniotic fluid.

amnioscopy: A prenatal diagnostic procedure in which the fetus is seen by use of a fibro-optic light.

amniotic fluid: Fluid that surrounds and protects the developing fetus. This fluid is sampled through amniocentesis.

amplifier: A component of a hearing aid that increase the intensity (or loudness) of the electrical signal.

amputations: The absence of a limb, either congenitally or acquired after birth.

achondroplastic dwarfism: An inherited form of dwarfism or arrested growth. It results in overall smallness and especially short upper arms and thighs.

anemia: A condition in which there is an abnormally low number of red blood cells present in the blood.

anencephaly: A condition in which the person has a partial or complete absence of cerebral tissue.

ankle-foot orthosis (AFO's): A short leg brace.

anomaly: Structure or function deviating significantly from the norm; irregularity.

anophthalmos: An absence of the eyeball.

anorexia nervosa: A condition of self-inflicted starvation, most often found in adolescent females, wherein body weight is at least 15 percent below that which is expected.

anoxia: A lack of oxygen in body tissues.

antagonist: Certain muscles opposing or resisting the actions of others.

anterior fontanel: The membrane-covered space on the top of the head; also called the soft spot. It generally closes over by 18 months of age.

anthropometric measures: Measurements of the body such as length, stature (height), head circumference of body weight.

anti-convulsants: A group of medications which are prescribed to control seizures (convulsions). There are many different types of anti-convulsant, and most work by preventing the abnormal electrical outbursts in the brain which lead to the seizure. The amount to administer must be calculated on the patient's body weight.

anti-Rh gamma globulin (RhoGAM): A medication used to combat incompatibility in blood type between a mother and her fetus.

antibiotic: A substance prescribed by a physician or dentist to kill or slow the growth of certain bacteria. Usually taken by mouth, antibiotics should always be taken for the prescribed length of time. There are no antibiotics that affect viruses.

antibodies: Particles produced by the body (proteins) to surround and destroy undesirable substances that enter the body, such as bacteria, viruses, molds, infections, and pollen (which causes hay fever and other allergic reactions).

antigens: Any of a class of biochemical substances that stimulate the production of antibodies.

antihistamines: Drugs which antagonize (or counteract) the action of histamine and are, therefore; of value in the treatment of certain allergic conditions such as hay fever, nettlerash and certain forms of eczema.

antiretroviral agents: An agent that inhibits the activity of a retrievers, which is a particular virus characterized by a reversing of the transfer of genetic code information from one type to another.

antisocial personality disorder: A lack of socialization along with behavior patterns that bring a person repeatedly into conflict with society, incapacity for significant loyalty to others or to social values, callousness, irresponsibility, impulsiveness and inability to feel guilt or learn from experience or punishment. Frustration tolerance is low and such people tend to blame others or give plausible rationalizations for their behavior. Characteristic behavior appears before age 15, although the diagnosis may not be apparent until adulthood.

anxiety: Apprehension, tension or uneasiness that stems from the anticipation of danger which may be internal or external. Some definitions of anxiety distinguish it from fear by limiting it to the anticipation of danger from a largely unknown, source, whereas fear is the response to a consciously recognized and usually external threat or danger. The manifestations of anxiety and fear are not the same and include motor tension, autonomic hyperactivity, apprehensive expectation and vigilance and scanning.

anxiety disorders: Conditions that are characterized by excessive fears or anxieties about persons, places, or events. Persons with anxiety disorders display exaggerated or inappropriate responses to the perception of internal or external dangers.

anxiety-withdrawal: A category of behavior disorder involving overanxiety, social withdrawal, seclusiveness, shyness, sensitivity, and other behaviors implying a retreat from the environment.

aorta: The major artery of the body. It originates in the left ventricle of the heart and carries oxygenated blood to the rest of the body.

AP: Assistance Payments (office).

APGAR score: An evaluation of a newborn's physical condition after birth that enables professionals to quickly identify the infant at risk. It is the sum of ratings (0, 1, & 2) on five criteria; appearance or coloring, pulse (heart rate), grimace (responsiveness to stimuli), activity (muscle tone), and respiration. (The first letter in each word combines to make the acronym APGAR.) Ratings are taken at one minute and again at five minutes after birth.

aphasia: An acquired language disorder in which there is a loss of speech and language ability resulting from a stroke, disease, or head injury. This loss of impairment results in the ability to use words to understand language symbols in reading, writing, or speaking. Several classifications are used, including expressive and receptive, congenital, developmental, and acquired aphasia.

apnea: Episodic arrest of breathing.

appeal: A written request for a change in a decision; also, to make such a request.
appropriate: 1. Able to meet a need; suitable or fitting. 2. In special education, it can be referred to as the most normal setting possible. An "appropriate education" would be individual education program specially designed to meet the unique needs of a child who has a handicap.

appropriated funds: Funds that have been set aside for a specific use.

approved program: As used in the rules pertaining to special education: A written description of a school district's policies and procedures for implementing its special education program that is found by the division to comply with the laws of the state.

apraxia: Inability to perform purposeful voluntary movements, the nature and mechanism of which are understood in the absence of motor or sensory impairment.
aqueous humor: A fluid that lies between the lens and cornea of the eye.

ARC: See "The Arc of the United States" or "The Arc of South Dakota".

Arc of SD (ARC): Formally named "Association for Retarded Citizens". The largest voluntary organization in the United States devoted solely to the welfare of people with a developmental disability and their families and to the prevention of the condition for future generations. The Arc is made up of a state chapter and local chapters who support the national mission.

arm fat area: Calculation based on arm muscle circumference and upper arm area; and indice of an individual's fat stores.

arm muscle area: Calculation based on upper arm area and arm muscle area; an indice of an individual's muscle stores.

ARSD: Administrative Rules of South Dakota.

arteriographic examination: A visual examination of an artery or arteries, after injection of dyes and other matter, that can be seen by x-rays.

arthritis: A disease involving inflammation of the joints due to infections, metabolic, or constitutional (genetic) causes.

articulation: The ability to make specific sounds: i.e., the "g" in gum, the "b" in bear, the "s" in snake. Articulation is the component most often affected in children with speech disorders of unknown cause.

articulation disabilities: Speech problems such as omissions, substitutions, additions, and distortions.

articulation disorders: Difficulties with the way sounds are formed and strung together, usually characterized by substituting one sound for another (wabbit for rabbit), omitting a sound (han for hand), or distorting a sound (shlip for sip).

articulation errors: A speech problem seen in children, which may take one of the following forms: distortions, omissions, substitutions, and/or additions.

ASA: Adult Services and Aging (office).

ASL: See "American Sign Language".

asphyxia: An impaired or absent exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide.

aspiration: The entrance (through inhaling) of material (e.g., food, saliva) into the trachea or airway below the level of the true vocal cords.

aspiration pneumonia: A lung inflammation caused by inhaling a foreign body, such as food, into the lungs.

assessment: 1. A collecting and bringing together of information about a child's learning needs, which may include social, psychological, and educational evaluations used to determine assignment to special programs or services; a process using observation, testing, and test analysis to determine an individual's strengths and weaknesses to plan, for example, his or her educational services. Also referred to in some instances as "evaluation". 2. As related to early childhood programs, assessment is the ongoing observations and monitoring of progress by qualified personnel throughout the period of a child's eligibility to identify the child's unique needs; the family's strengths and needs related to development of the child; and, the nature and extent of early intervention services that are needed by the child and the child's family to meet the needs of the child.

assessment team: A team of people from different areas of expertise who observe and test a child to determine his or her strengths and weaknesses.

assimilation: Sensory process of receiving information that is external to and/or within the self system.

assistive device: Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a person with a developmental disability. Examples would include visual alerting systems for a person with a hearing impairment, or a braille printer for a person who is blind.

assistive technology: The systematic application of technology, engineering methodologies, or scientific principles to meet the needs of, and address the barriers confronted by persons with developmental disabilities in areas including education, employment, supported employment, transportation, independent living, and other community living arrangements. This term includes assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

associate advocates: Professionals, agency personnel, and other individuals, usually in influential positions, who have embraced the advocacy concept without actually playing individualized advocacy roles, but who facilitate the advocacy functions of others by means of advice, or supportive behavior within their agencies, etc.

Association for the Care of Children's Health (ACCH): A multidisciplinary association for professionals and parents that promotes quality psychosocial health care for children and their families.

Association of Certified Social Workers (ACSW): A professional organization whose membership requires a certification by the academy of Certified Social Workers. To be ACSW certified requires 3,000 hours of paid supervised work beyond the MSW and an examination.

asthma: A condition, often of allergic origin, characterized by continuous labored breathing accompanied by wheezing, a sense of constriction to the chest, and attacks of coughing and gasping.

astigmatism: A refractive problem that occurs when the surface of the cornea is uneven or structurally defective, preventing the light rays from converging at a point.

asymmetrical: Lack of symmetry, i.e., lack of similarity between corresponding parts or organs on opposite sides of the body that are normally alike. This imbalance may cause poor body functioning.

asymmetrical tonic neck reflex (ATNR): Primitive reflex exhibited by stimulation of proprioceptors in the neck joint. Arm and leg on same side as the back of the head remain partially flexed, while the arm and leg on the fore side extend almost fully. at no cost: As used in the rules pertaining to special education: The provision of specially designed instruction without charge to the parent except for incidental fees that are normally charged to nonhandicapped students or their parents as a part of the regular education program.

at risk: A term used with children who have, or could have, problems with their development that may affect later learning.

ataxia: A condition wherein the individual experiences extreme difficulties in controlling fine and gross motor movements and balance. Resulting from damage to the cerebellum.

ataxic syndrome: Imbalance and incoordination of voluntary movements of the trunk and limb muscles. Lower limbs are usually more involved than upper.

ATC: Adjustment Training Center.

athetosis: 1. A condition characterized by constant, contorted twisting motions in the wrists and fingers. 2. Slow, smooth movements; mostly involving muscles of the arms and legs.

atlantoaxial instability: A misalignment of the top two vertebrae of the neck, which is more commonly found in persons with Down Syndrome. This condition makes these persons more prone to injury if they participate in activities which overextend or flex the neck. Proper diagnosis can help prevent serious injury.

ATNR: See "asymmetrical tonic neck reflex".

atonia: A condition evidenced by lack of muscle tone.

atresia: Absence of a normal body opening, such as atresia of the ear canal.

atrophy: A wasting away.

atropinization: A treatment for cataracts that involves washing the eye with atropine, which permanently dilates the pupil.

attendance: Presence in person or by correspondence; the period during which a person is working under a work-study program.

attending: Paying attention to something, focusing on something actively, showing interest.

attending behavior: The ability to pay attention to a task. Attending behavior includes alertness, stimulus selection, focusing, and vigilance.

attending physician: One who has primary responsibility for the medical diagnosis and treatment of the patient.

attention: Ability to focus on relevant information, screen out distractions, or stay on task.

Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder (ADD, ADHD): The classification of the DSM-III-R System; inattention, and impulsivity are present before age 7. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is the same as Attention Deficit Disorder except emphasis is placed on the hyperactivity. Either ADD or ADHD is acceptable language.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD): A condition in which a child exhibits signs of developmentally inappropriate hyperactivity, impulsivity, and inattention. These characteristics are usually present before the age of 7. ADHD is similar to "Attention Deficit Disorder", except emphasis is placed on the hyperactivity.

Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD): A condition characterized by when a person is easily distracted and has difficulty staying focused on an individual activity for any period of time. ADD affects 3-5% of all students, and is not recognized as a separate category of disability under federal educational legislation (IDEA). See also "Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder" as these terms are often used interchangeably.

audiogram: A graph on which the results of a person's hearing test are recorded. It plots the person's hearing thresholds for puretones at various sound frequencies. This record is usually performed by an audiologist using an instrument called an audiometer.

audiologist: A professional educated in the study of normal and impaired hearing. The audiologist determines if a person has a hearing impairment, what type of impairment it is, and how the individual can make the best use of remaining hearing. If a person will benefit from using a hearing aid or other listening device, the audiologist can assist with the selection, fitting, and purchase of the most appropriate aid and with training the individual to use the aid effectively.

audiology: 1. The science or study of hearing. 2. Detection and management of aural (hearing) factors associated with communication.

audiometer: An electric device used to detect a person's response to sound stimuli.

audiometry: The measurement of hearing using calibrated, electronic instruments.

audition: The act or sense of hearing.

auditory: Pertaining to hearing.

auditory association: The ability to associate verbally presented ideas or information.

auditory blending: The act of blending the parts of a word into an integrated whole when speaking.

auditory brainstem response (ABR): A very reliable test used when more information is needed to complete an indepth evaluation of hearing or the auditory system, or when other methods of evaluation have not given reliable results. Most commonly used with infants and other individuals who are hard to test and can be performed while they are sleeping. Sensors (electrodes) are placed on the scalp or forehead and on or behind the ears. Series of sounds are presented, usually through earphones. The electrodes pick up electrical energy produced by the auditory nerve and the brain in response to the sound. A computer averages the responses and produces a waveform that shows the brain response. Careful analysis of the ABR pattern can help identify the presence of certain medical conditions that affect hearing, such as tumors along the auditory pathway or diseases like multiple sclerosis. Also referred to as "auditory evoked potentials measurement" or "brainstem evoked response audiometry (BSER)".

auditory closure: The ability of the learner to formulate or recognize a whole when one or more parts are not heard (ex: "andy bar" can be heard as candy bar) or when continuity of sound is interrupted by gaps (ex: c-a-t can be heard as cat).

auditory cortex: That portion of the brain that is associated with hearing.

auditory discrimination: The ability of the listener to distinguish likenesses and differences between sounds.

auditory evoked potentials measurement: See "auditory brainstem response (ABR)".

auditory figure ground: Ability of the learner to separate at will what one wishes to attend auditorily from the surrounding environment. Auditory figure ground confusion produces frustration and, perhaps, withdrawal from auditory tasks.

auditory global method: A general term describing an approach to teaching deaf people communication where the main channel for speech and language development is auditory (although not always exclusive) and fluent; connected speech is the means of input.

auditory memory and sequencing: The ability to remember what has been heard (or presented) for both long and short periods of time; and also having the ability to remember the order (sequence) in which it was heard.

auditory perception: The ability to interpret or organize the sensory data received through the ear knowing the child does not have a hearing loss.

auditory processing: A type of learning disability in which the person has difficulty understanding what one hears, or problems distinguishing one sound from another.

auditory training: Teaching a hearing impaired individual to make the best possible use of his remaining hearing by structured practice in listening, hearing aid use, learning to modify communication situations, etc. It is ordinarily integrated with other training, such as speech reading instruction, vocabulary development, etc.

auditory-oral: See "aural-oral".

augmentative communication: Any approach designed to support, enhance, or supplement the communication of individuals who are not independent verbal communicators in all situations.

aura: A subjective sensation experienced by some individuals before the onset of a grand mal seizure.

aural: Of the ear or hearing.

aural-oral: An approach to teaching deaf people communication skills that includes a combination of the oral and auditory methods (includes speech, speech reading, and hearing; but not signing or finger spelling). Also termed "auditory-oral".

auricle: The most visible part of the ear; the concave elastic cartilaginous structure attached to the surface of the skull.

auropalpebral reflex (APR): Response to sudden sound near the ear characterized by a wink or twitch at the corner of the eye.

authorized provider: A hospital, institution, physician or another professional who meets the licensing and certification requirements of the CHAMPUS regulation and is practicing within the scope of that license.

autism: A developmental disability caused by a physical disorder of the brain appearing during the first three years of life. Symptoms include disturbances in physical, social and language skills; abnormal responses to sensations; and abnormal ways of relating to people, objects and events; unusually high or low activity levels; insistence that the environment and routine remain unchanged; little imaginative play; and repetitive movements such as rocking and spinning, head banging, and hand twisting.

autistic: Displaying characteristics of autism. See "autism" for more specific information.

automatic phasic bite release pattern: A response to tactile input presented to the biting surfaces of the gums or teeth composed of a small, rhythmical series of up/down jaw movements; occurs until approximately 5 months of age.

autosomal dominant trait: A genetic trait carried on the autosomes. The disorder appears when one of a pair of chromosomes contains the abnormal gene. Statistically, it is passed on from the affected parent to half of the children.

autosomal recessive trait: A characteristic that originates from a chromosome other than the sex chromosome. To be seen or expressed, such a trait would require the combining of two recessive genes; if paired with a dominant gene, the recessive trait would not appear. (For example, blue eyes result from the two recessive genes, but brown eyes may occur from one dominant (brown) and one recessive (blue) or two dominant genes.)

autosome: Any of the first 22 pairs of chromosomes are autosomes, except for the two sex chromosomes.

avoidant disorder: Avoiding the establishment of new interpersonal contacts to the extent that social functioning is impaired.

awareness of sound: The ability to recognize the presence or absence of sound.

B

babbling: A state in speech development during which a child carries on vocal play with the random production of different speech sounds consisting of consonant-vowel sounds, such as "ba ba" "ma ma", etc. Usually begins around 4 months of age.

Babinski reflex: Extension of the great toe with fanning of the other toes on stimulation of the sole of the foot; may be indicative of a lesion involving the pyramidal tract.

bacterial meningitis: An inflammation of the membranes in the brain or spinal cord caused by bacterial infection.

bagging: Bag and mask ventilation is a short-term substitute for ventilation without a respirator. It is most commonly used during a resuscitation and is of help prior to establishing the need for mechanical ventilation. It is frequently used for the management of infants with recurrent apnea.

ballismus: Wide flinging or jerking movements of the extremities.

barium swallow study (modified): See "videowallow study".

barrier-free facility: A building or other structure that is designed and constructed so that people with mobility disabilities (such as those in wheelchairs) can move freely throughout and access all areas without encountering architectural obstructions.

basic-skills approach: Pertaining to instruction that lays the ground work for further development and higher levels of functioning.

Batten disease: Gray matter progressive nervous system disease. Child develops normally until 6 months to 2 years and then starts to lose skills. Eventually seizures, mental retardation, and blindness occur. Also referred to as "neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis" or "NCL".

battery: A component of a hearing aid that serves as the power source for the electrical circuits.

Bayley Mental Scale: A testing instrument which assesses cognitive abilities. This scale is designed to "assess sensory-perceptual acuities, discriminations, and the ability to respond to these; the early solving ability; vocalizations and the beginnings of verbal communication and early evidence of the ability to form generalizations and classifications".

BD: See "Behavior Disorder".

BEER: Benefits Earnings Exchange Record.

behavior checklists: Objective protocols that permit an observer to count or check for the existence or absence of a given behavior or set of behaviors through direct observation of the individual being evaluated.

Behavior Disorder (BD): 1. A term applied to children who display behaviors, over long periods of time, that deviate significantly from socially acceptable norms for their age and situation. 2. A term applied to people who cannot care for themselves, are unable to function in society, and/or are a threat to themselves or others because of behavioral excesses or deficits.

Behavior Management/Modification: To develop, strengthen, maintain, decrease or eliminate behaviors in a planned or systematic way.

behavior modification: A technique of changing human behavior based on the theory of operant behavior and conditioning. Careful observation of events preceding and following the behavior in question is required. The environment is manipulated to reinforce the desired responses, thereby bringing about the desired change in behavior.

behavior shaping: A general term referring to the process of changing a person's behavior, often developing new behaviors that have not yet been evident, using one of the several procedures involved in behavior therapy.

behavioral contract: An agreement, written or verbal, between two people stating that if one behaves in a certain manner (such as completing a homework assignment), the other (teacher, parent, etc.) will give him or her a specific reward.

behavioral manifestations: A parameter of classifications that focuses on a description of behavior.

behavioral observation audiometry (BOA): The assessment of hearing by noting a child's unconditioned responses, such as eye movements, etc., to sounds presented at measured levels in a sound treated room.

behavioral play audiometry: The use of games and toys in modified pure tone and speech audiometry testing.

behavioral skills: Skills related to a person's behavior in a variety of environments.

behind-the-ear hearing aid (BTE): A hearing aid that hangs behind the ear and usually attaches to a tube leading into the ear canal.

beliefs: The state of believing; conviction that certain things are true, faith, especially religious.

belly breathing: A respiratory pattern in which the diaphragm contracts and pushes against the abdominal wall, resulting in belly expansion and flaring of the lower ribs on inhalation; with stressful body movement and effort, depression or collapse of the anterior rib cage (ribs and/or sternum) also may occur; predominant breathing pattern of the infant and young child.

BENDEX: Beneficiary Data Exchange.

beneficiary: The persons or institutions who receive the benefit of the Will, Trust, Life Insurance policy, etc.

benign: Refers to a tumor or growth that can destroy tissue by pressing on it or by filling a body space required by another organ.

BeOK food guards: Plate guards which come in a variety of materials and sizes and attach to most dinner plates. The edge can be just the extra support needed for spoon feeding.

BIA: See "Bureau of Indian Affairs".

bilateral: Pertaining to or affecting both sides of the body (two-sided). Example: having a hearing impairment in both ears.

bilirubin: A yellow pigment produced by the breakdown of red blood cells in the liver. Elevated levels of bilirubin lead to jaundice.

binaural: Using, pertaining to or involving the function of both ears.

binaural hearing aids: The complete hearing aids, one for each ear.

Binet-Simon Scales: An individual test of intelligence developed by Alfred Binet and Theodore Simon in 1905 in France. Later translated into English (1908), and revised and standardized by Lewis Terman. See also "Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale".

biographical inventory: An individual history of a person that includes information about a wide range of activities and achievements of the individual being studied.

biologically at risk: History of prenatal, perinatal, neonatal, or early developmental events that may damage the central nervous system (e.g., very low birth weight, intraventricular bleed).

bipolar disorder: 1. A mood disorder with elevated mood, usually accompanied by a major depressive episode. 2. Or, more specifically: A major affective disorder in which there are episodes of both mania and depression; formally called manic depressive psychosis, circular or mixed type. A mild form of bipolar disorder is sometimes labeled cyclothymic disorder. Bipolar disorder may be subdivided into manic, depressed or mixed types on the basis of currently presenting symptoms.

birth asphyxia: The state of an infant who does not breathe spontaneously at birth and is oxygen depleted, but sufficiently reactive to respond to stimulation or breathe spontaneously after a variable delay.

bladder: The sac that holds the urine until urination can take place.

blind: A person either totally blind or having very poor eyesight. More specifically, having no vision (with the use of eye glasses) better than 20/200 in the better eye, or a limited visual field of 20 degrees or less.

blind work expenses: Provides that any earned income of a blind individual which is used to meet any expenses reasonably attributable to earning the income is not counted in determining SSI eligibility and the payment amount.

blocking: Interruption of a train of speech before a thought or idea has been completed. After a period of silence, which may last from a few seconds to minutes, the person indicates that he or she cannot recall what he or she has been saying or meant to say. Blocking should be judged to be present only if the person spontaneously describes losing his or her thought or if upon questioning by the interviewer, the person gives that as a reason for pausing.

BOA: See "behavioral observation audiometry".

board-certified psychiatrist: A psychiatrist who has passed examinations administered by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, and thus becomes certified as a medical specialist in psychiatry.

board-eligible psychiatrist: A psychiatrist who is eligible to take the examinations of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology; a psychiatrist who has completed an approved psychiatric residency training program.

body alignment: The proper positioning of the body parts so that undue strain is not put on any one part, and deformities are prevented.

body awareness/scheme: Internal awareness of the body and the relationship of body parts to each other.

body hearing aid: A hearing aid with a microphone, amplifier and battery worn on the chest and with a cord-connected receiver worn at the ear.

bolster: Pillow or rolled towel that can be used to support various body parts in various positions.

bone-conduction hearing aid: A hearing aid that uses a bone vibrator pressed against the skull to transmit amplified sound directly to the inner ear.

borderline personality disorder: Instability in a variety of areas, including interpersonal relationships, behavior, mood and self-image. Interpersonal relationships are often intense and unstable, with marked shifts of attitude. Frequently there is impulsive and unpredictable behavior which is potentially physically self-damaging. Mood is often unstable with marked shifts from normal to dysphoric or with inappropriate intense anger or lack of control of anger. A profound identity disturbance may be manifested by uncertainty about self-image, gender identity, long-term goals or values. There may be chronic feelings of emptiness or boredom or brief episodes of psychosis.

BPD: See "bronchopulmonary dysplasia".

brachial artery: The principal artery of the forearm.

bradycardia: A slowing of the fetal heart rate, usually below 60 beats a minute. This may occur during labor and delivery, and/or associated with perinatal asphyxia (hypoxemia). Central nervous system damage may ensue from the results of reduced blood flow and fetal oxygenation.

braille: A system of writing used by many people who are blind, involving combinations of six raised dots punched into paper, which can be read with the fingertips.

braille teacher: An individual who assists classroom teachers in the instruction of reading and writing through the use of braille.

braillist: A person who produces materials in braille by the use of a manual braille writer, slate and stylus, or computer.

brain injury: Injury, damage, or infection to some parts of the brain that occurs before, during or after birth. As a result of such organic impairment, there may be disturbances that prevent or impede the normal learning process.

brainstem: The structure at the base of the brain connecting the upper end of the spinal cord with the cerebral hemispheres.

brainstem auditory evoked response (BAER): See "auditory brainstem response (ABR)" for definition.

brainstem evoked response audiometry (BSER): See "auditory brainstem response audiometry".

brand name medications: A manufacturer's name for a medication whose active ingredient is also available in "generic" form. Examples of brand name medications which contain acetaminophen are Tylenol, Anacin-3, and Tempra.

Brazelton scale: The Neonatal Behavioral Assessment Scale. Useful for scoring interactive behavior. May be useful as predictive of subsequent functional ability.

breakeven point: The dollar amount at which total income precludes (jeopardizes) SSI payment. As a person's countable income increases, SSI payments decrease until he is no longer eligible for any SSI payment. Individual breakeven points vary with the person's earned/unearned income mix, applicable income exclusions, and State supplement eligibility, if any.

breech presentation: A situation in which the fetus is positioned with buttocks toward the cervix at delivery.

bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD): A chronic lung disease that some premature infants get during the first few months of life. Unlike an adult with a lung disease, a baby can grow healthy new lung tissue. Babies with BPD often have continuing respiratory problems. Despite these problems, most outgrow their respiratory symptoms by school age and are able to participate then in normal physical activity. BPD occurs when the lungs and airways of an infant are damaged as a result of being on a respirator.

bruxism: Repetitive grinding of the teeth.

BSER: Stands for "brainstem evoked response audiometry". See "auditory brainstem response audiometry" for definition.

BTE: See "behind-the-ear hearing aid".

bulimia nervosa: An eating disorder in which there are frequent episodes of uncontrolled binge eating followed by self-induced vomiting or other extreme measures to prevent weight gain.

BUMED: Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

buphthalmos: An abnormal distention and enlargement of the eyeball.

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA): The Bureau of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior.

burn-out: A concept that describes professionals (or others) who become exhausted on a long-term basis because of physical, emotional, and other demands exceeding their tolerance.

butyrophenones: Drugs that affect neurochemical in the brain and are used to control behavior.

C

caliper: Calibrated device for measuring skinfold thickness.

CAN: Child Abuse and Neglect.

canal hearing aid: A hearing aid that fits mostly in the ear canal with a small part of it extending into the concha. It has a case molded to the user's ear.

cancer: A group of diseases, each with its own name, treatment, and chances of control and cure. It occurs when a group of cells begins to multiply and grow uncontrollably, crowding out the normal cells. For example, cancer may take the form of leukemia, which develops from the white blood cells, or solid tumors, found in any part of the body.

CAP: See "Client Assistance Program" or "Center Accreditation Project".

carbohydrate: A food that provides energy. Normally obtained from sugar and cereals.

carbon dioxide: The gas that is produced in body tissues as a waste product. It is removed from tissues by the blood. The blood then carries it to the lungs for exhalation.

carcinogen: A cancer-producing substance.

cardiac disorders: Diseases of the heart that affect its functioning and output.

cardiologist: A medical doctor who specializes in the treatment of heart problems. Some disabilities like Down Syndrome are characterized by heart defects that necessitate the child being seen by a cardiologist.

career guidance and counseling: Those programs: 1) which pertain to the body of subject matter in related techniques and methods organized for the development in individuals of career awareness, career planning, career decision-making, placement skills, and knowledge and understanding of local, state, and national occupational, education, and labor market needs, trends, and opportunities; and 2) which assist them in making and implementing informed educational and occupational choices.

caregivers: Any persons who have input into the care of the child: babysitter, extended family, day care workers, hospital workers (nurses, aides, etc.).

CASA: Court-appointed special advocate - no definition.

case history: Information gathered, typically from care provider or parent, regarding infant's developmental, medical and familial history.

case management activities: 1. The activities carried out by a service coordinator to assist and enable a child and family to receive the rights, procedural safeguards, and services that are authorized to be provided. 2. Priority area activities to establish a potentially life-long, goal-oriented process for coordinating the range of assistance needed by persons with developmental disabilities and their families, which is designed to ensure accessibility, continuity of supports and services, and accountability and to ensure that the maximum potential of persons with developmental disabilities for independence, productivity, and integration into the community is attained.

case management: 1. A service that assists persons to obtain and coordinate community resources such as income assistance, education, housing, medical care, treatment, vocational preparation, and recreation. 2. The planning, implementation, and monitoring of a person's program from diagnosis through treatment. 3. Also referred to as "service coordination".

case manager: An individual who assists and coordinates the evaluation and treatment services for individuals and families. This person performs case management duties. Also referred to as "service coordinator" or "evaluation coordinator".

CASSP: See "Child and Adolescent Services System Program".

CAT Scan: See "Computerized Axial Tomography".

cataract: A clouding of the eye lens, which becomes opaque, resulting in visual problems.

catarrhal deafness: Hearing loss resulting from inflammation of the mucous membrane of the air passages in the head and throat, with congestion of the eustachian tube.

catatonic behavior: Marked motor anomalies, generally limited to disturbances in the context of a diagnosis of a non-organic psychotic disorder.

catatonic excitement: A psychotic disorder behavior characterized by excited motor activity, apparently purposeless and not influenced by external stimuli.

catatonic negativism: A psychotic disorder behavior characterized by an apparently motiveless resistance to all instructions or attempts to be moved. When passive, the person may resist any effort to be moved; when active, he or she may do the opposite of what is asked - for example, firmly clench jaws when asked to open mouth.

catatonic posturing: A psychotic disorder behavior characterized by the voluntary assumption of an inappropriate or bizarre posture, usually held for a long period of time. Example: A patient may stand with arms outstretched as if he were Jesus on the cross.

catatonic rigidity: A psychotic disorder behavior characterized by maintaining a rigid posture against all efforts to be moved.

catatonic schizophrenia: A marked psychomotor disturbance that may involve particular forms of stupor, rigidity, excitement or posturing. Sometimes when there is a rapid, alternation between the extremes of excitement and stupor, associated features include negativism, stereotypy and waxy flexibility. Mutism is common.

catatonic stupor: A psychotic disorder behavior characterized by a marked decrease in reactivity to environment and reduction in spontaneous movements and activity, sometimes to the point of appearing to be unaware of one's surroundings.

catatonic waxy flexibility: A type of psychotic disorder behavior in which a person's limbs can be "molded" into any position, which is then maintained. When the limb is being moved, it feels to the examiner as if it were made of pliable wax.

categorical descriptors: Labels that divide disabilities into the traditional categories of mental retardation, behavior disorders, and learning disabilities.

CCD: See "Crippled Children's Division".

CDA: See "Child Development Associate".

CDD: See "Center for Developmental Disabilities".

CDR: See "Continuing Disability Review".

CEC: See "Council for Exceptional Children".

ceiling effects: A restricted range of test questions or problems that does not permit students to demonstrate their true capacity of achievement.

celiac disease: A chronic disease of the intestines. It damages the body's ability to absorb, or retain nutrients as food moves through the intestines. This results in diarrhea or constipation, loss of appetite, growth problems and wasting of muscle. Believed to be a genetically transferred deficiency. Age of onset, 4 months to 16 years. A sensitivity to the gluten portion of wheat, oats, barley, and rye flour or cereals is responsible for the symptoms of the disease. Also referred to as celiac sprue and gluten-induced enteropathy.

Center Accreditation Project (CAP): A national certification project for quality child care program.

Center for Developmental Disabilities (CDD): Previous name for the South Dakota University Affiliated Program.

center-based services: Where you and your child travel to a central location. All teachers, consultants, and counselors are located at the center and work with children individually and in small groups.

central auditory processing: Perception of sound. It includes skills such as attention to sound, long and short term memory for sound, selective listening, and localization of sound.

central hearing loss: A type of hearing loss occurring when the auditory centers of the brain are affected by injury, disease, tumor, heredity, or unknown causes. Loudness of sound is not necessarily affected, but understanding speech is.

central nervous system (CNS): The brain and spinal cord.

central nervous system disorders: Diseases and/or conditions that affect the brain and/or spinal cord.

cephalo: Pertaining to the head.

Cephalocaudal: From head to tail. Refers to neurological development that proceeds from the head downward.

cerebellum: The small area of the brain at the base of the skull in the back of the head. It coordinates muscle movement and controls balance.

Cerebral Palsy (CP): A condition caused by damage to the brain, usually occurring before, during or shortly following birth. Cerebral Palsy is characterized by an inability to fully control motor function, general physical weakness, lack of coordination, and perceptual difficulties. Each characteristic can range from mild to severe.

cerebrum: The highest center of the brain, controlling movement and speech.

ceroid lipofuscinosis: See "Battee disease".

CF: See "cystic fibrosis".

CFD: Contract For Deed.

CFME: Current Fair Market Equity Value.

CFMEV: See "Current Fair Market Equity Value".

CFR: Code of Federal Regulations.

CHAMPUS: Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services.

CHAMPVA: Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Veterans Administration.

CHAP: See "Children Have A Potential".

CHD: See "congenital heart defects/diseases".

cheek/lip retraction: The abnormal pulling back of the cheeks and lips for abnormal stabilization; the lips appear thin as they form a tight line across the mouth; initially seen in conjunction with abnormal head and neck hyperextension and tongue retraction.

chemotherapy: Treatment or control of a disease, usually cancer, by the use of chemical agents.

chest physiotherapy: Physical therapy applied to the chest.

chewing: The process used to break up solid foods in preparation for swallowing which is characterized by rotary movements of the jaw; lateral, spreading, and rolling movements of the tongue to propel and maintain food between the teeth; and lip and cheek activity to help hold food between the biting surfaces.

child abuse: Inflicted, nonaccidental, sexual, physical, and/or psychological trauma and/or injury to a child.

Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP): A program within the Division of Mental Health, Department of Human Services, relating to children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) or those at-risk of developing SED, that focuses on intervention by community mental health centers and other agencies whose services are required to meet the child and the child's family needs. It also provides training in identification and treatment, promotes the development of parent support and in identification and treatment, promotes the development of parent support and advocacy groups, and conducts evaluations of new service components and statewide interagency system development.

Child and Adolescent Services System Program (CASSP): Funded by the National Institute of Mental Health in 28 states and three local communities to plan, develop, and implement services for children and adolescents with serious emotional impairments.

Child Development Associate (CDA): Training and certification program for Head Start and child care staff.

child development activities: Priority area activities that will assist in the prevention, identification, and alleviation of developmental disabilities in children, including early intervention services.

Child Find: A series of public awareness efforts designed to alert the community at-large to the availability of and rationale for early childhood intervention programs and services. This service is directed by each state's Department of Education for identifying and diagnosing unserved children with handicaps; while Child Find looks for all unserved children, it makes a special effort to identify children from birth to six years old.

child neglect: A lack of interaction with a child on the part of other family members, which deprives that youngster of vital opportunities for development.

Child Protection (DP): See "Child Protection Services", CPS.

Child Protective Services (CPS): State or county agency responsible for addressing issues of child abuse and neglect. Also referred to as "Child Protection (CP)".

Child Psychiatrist: A physician (M.D.) specializing in mental, emotional, or behavior disorders in children and adolescents. Qualified to prescribe medications.

Child Psychologist: A mental health professional with a Ph.D. in psychology who administers tests, evaluates and treats children's emotional disorders. Cannot prescribe medication. See psychiatrist.

Child Study Team (CST): A team consisting of the parents of a child with a handicap and professionals serving the child, who convene to develop long and short range goals for the child's progress.

child welfare: A field of social service concerned with the care and well being of children.

Child Welfare Agency: An administrative organization providing protection to children, and supportive services to children and their families.

childhood depression: See "major depressive episode".

childhood schizophrenia: Schizophrenia appearing before puberty. Frequently manifested by autism and withdrawn behavior; failure to develop an identity separate from the mother's; and general unevenness, gross immaturity and inadequacy in development.

Children Have A Potential (CHAP): An Air Force program for children with disabilities.

children in need of prolonged assistance: As used in the rules pertaining to special education: Those children under the age of three who because of the intensity of their physical, mental, or emotional problems or a combination of such problems, need educational, social, psychological, or medical services beyond those which are traditionally offered in order to achieve their expected potential for useful and meaningful participation in society and for self-fulfillment.

chopped fine: A nutrition term used when describing dietary instructions. Table food cut to approximately 1/4 of an inch. Often recommended for children with some chewing abilities and having tongue lateralization.

chorea: Disorder characterized by irregular, spasmodic, involuntary movements of individual muscles or small muscle groups of the face, fingers and toes.

choreoathetosis: A form of cerebral palsy marked by variable muscle tone and involuntary movements of the arms and legs.

choroid: A vascular membrane in the eye containing pigment cells, which lies between the retina and sclera.

choroidoretinal degeneration: Degeneration of the choroid and retina of the eye, that produces severe visual loss.

chromosomal abnormalities: Defects or damage in the chromosomes of an individual.

chromosomes: Threadlike materials within a cell that carry the genes; and therefore, play a central role in tissue development and inherited characteristics.

chronic: Marked by long duration or frequent recurrence.

chronic renal failure: Permanent reduction in kidney function.

chronological age: Age of a child in years, months, and days since birth.

circumstantiality: A term used to describe speech that is indirect and delayed in reaching the point because of unnecessary, tedious details, and parenthetical remarks. Circumstantial replies or statements may be prolonged for many minutes if the speaker is not interrupted and urged to get to the point. Circumstantiality is common in Compulsive Personality Disorder and in many people without mental disorders.

citizen advocacy: A one-to-one relationship between a capable volunteer and a person with a developmental disability (protege) who requires the assistance of an advocate in order to become a more independent, active and contributing member of society. It is also a method of assisting those persons to deal with problem situations, to protect their rights and to facilitate their integration into the community. It is not meant to replace the professional services that developmentally disabled persons need and deserve, but to compliment them with a supportive relationship with a person from the community.

citizen advocate: A competent citizen volunteer representing, as if they were his own, the interests of another citizen who is impaired in his instrumental competency, or who has major expressive needs which are unmet and which are likely to remain unmet without special intervention.

civil rights: The rights of a citizen of the United States that deal with the right to due process, informed consent, appeal, petition for change, equal protection under the law, adult patterns of behavior, education, equal opportunity, and opportunities in a least restrictive setting.

claim: A request for payment under the terms of a policy (contract).

claims processor: The insurance company under contract to process CHAMPUS claims (fiscal intermediary).

clanging: Speech in which sounds, rather than meaningful, conceptual relationships govern word choice; it may include rhyming and punning. The term is usually applied only when it is a manifestation of a pathological condition; thus, it would not be used to describe the rhyming word play of children. Example: "I'm not trying to make noise. I'm trying to make sense. If you can make sense out of nonsense, well, have fun. I'm trying to make sense out of sense. I'm not making sense (cents) anymore. I have to make dollars." Clanging is observed most commonly in schizophrenic and manic episodes.

cleft lip and/or palate: A gap in the soft palate and roof of the mouth, sometimes extending through the upper lip. Results when the various parts of a lip or palate don't grow together to make a single lip or hard palate and is usually correctable. Affects eating, speech production, hearing and tooth formation. Clefting occurs during the sixth through thirteenth week of pregnancy.

Client Assistance Program (CAP): The Client Assistance Program is a program through the South Dakota Advocacy Services, Inc., which can provide assistance to any individual with a disability who is an applicant or client of any program authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. They provide assistance by: 1) Advising individuals of their rights under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, 2) Explaining rehabilitation services upon request, 3) Helping individuals in the appeals process, and 4) Referring individuals to other agencies. Those programs included under this act are: Rehabilitation Services, Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired, Independent Living Centers, Rehabilitation Center for the Blind, Supported Employment Programs, Project with Industry, programs receiving Rehabilitation Facility Grants, Rehabilitation Teaching Services, and the Yankton Rehabilitation Program at the Human Services Center.

Clinical Psychologist: A mental health professional trained to administer psychological tests, evaluate and treat emotional disorders. Cannot prescribe medication. See psychiatrist.

clinical reasoning: The process of systematic decision-making based on an identifiable professional frame of reference and utilizing both subjective and objective data accrued through appropriate assessment/evaluation processes.

Clinical Social Worker: A mental health professional trained to provide services to individuals, families and groups. Cannot prescribe medication. See psychiatrist.

clinical team: Along with parents (and child), this team usually includes a physical and/or occupational therapist, a technical person such as a rehabilitation engineer or other professional with technical design skills, a physician knowledgeable about positioning aids, and a retail medical equipment dealer (also referred to as vendor) from whom the aid might be purchased. Input from teachers, social workers, rehabilitation nurses and others can also be valuable.

clonus: Involuntary, rapid contractions and relaxations of a muscle.

closed-caption: A process by which people with hearing disorders are provided translated dialogue from television programs in the form of subtitles. Also called the line-21 system, since the caption is inserted into blank line 21 of the picture.

cluttering: A speech disorder characterized by excessively rapid, disorganized speaking, often including words or phrases unrelated to the topic.

CMHC: See "Community Mental Health Center".

CMI: Chronically Mentally Ill.

CMV: See "cytomegalovirus".

CNS: See "central nervous system".

co-dependency: The relationship addiction between 2 people who feel incomplete/obsessed without the other. Included in this relationship is the need for one person to constantly enable, rescue, or help the other person continue with their addiction or their life.

co-payment: A method of expense participation which requires that the insured pay a specified percentage of all the eligible medical expenses (in excess of the deductible) which he or she incurs as the result of a sickness or injury. Also referred to as "coinsurance" or "percentage participation".

cochlea: A structure in the inner ear that converts sound coming from the middle ear into electrical signals that are transmitted to the brain.

cochlear implant: An electrode or electrodes placed in the cochlea and attached to an induction coil buried under the skin near the ear. Another unit is worn on the body that converts sound to an electrical stimulus which electrically stimulate neurons of the eighth nerve. It provides limited hearing to those who cannot benefit from conventional hearing aids.

cochlear implant: A surgical implanting of electronic prosthetic components, which provide stimulation of the auditory nerve and restore hearing.

codicil: An amendment to a Will. The codicil is a separate document that is signed with witnesses just like the Will, but amends some portions of the Will.

cognitive: A term that describes the process people use for remembering, reasoning, understanding, problem solving, evaluating, and using judgement. Cognition more simply, is what a person or child knows and understands, or the process of knowing.

cognitive development: The development of skills necessary for understanding and organizing the world, including such perceptual and conceptual skills as discrimination, memory, sequencing, concept formation, generalization, reasoning, and problem solving.

cognitive functioning: Refers to the level of proficiency in thinking, processing information, and knowledge.

COLA: Cost-of-Living Allowance.

communication: The process of transmitting or receiving thoughts or messages from one person to another in a way that they both understand (facial expression, body language, gestures, sign language, speech pictures, written words, etc.).

communication disorders: The inability to communicate effectively due to either a hearing loss, a speech disorder, or a language disorder.

Communication Services for the Deaf (CSD): A non-profit organization in SD dedicated to the provision of broad based services to deaf and hard of hearing individuals. CSD is a subdivision of the South Dakota Association of the Deaf.

communication skills: Consciously linking the meaning and the purpose of what (we say) is said to what is (we do) done.

Community Mental Health Center (CMHC): Local agencies that provide mental health assistance to a given community or surrounding area. May be run by the county or state or be a private, non-profit organization.

Community Support Program (CSP): Federally funded programs (through the National Institute of Mental Health) to develop community support systems for persons with long term psychiatric disabilities.

Community Support System: An organized system of care to assist adults with long-term psychiatric disabilities to meet their needs and develop their potentials without being unnecessarily isolated or excluded from the community.

community supports: Providing activities, services, supports, and other assistance to persons with developmental disabilities, and the families and communities of such persons, which are designed to: (A) assist neighborhoods and communities to be more responsive to the needs of persons with developmental disabilities and their families, (B) develop local networks which can provide informal support, and (C) make communities accessible and enable communities to offer their resources and opportunities to persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Community supports includes community education, personal assistance services, vehicular and home modifications, support at work, and transportation.

Community Training Services (CTS): Funding source for work and living training for people with developmental disabilities who are no longer in school.

community-based organizations: Any such organization of demonstrated effectiveness described in Section 4(5), the Job Training Partnership Act. Private nonprofit organizations which are representative of communities or significant segments of communities and which provide job training services (for example, Opportunities Industrialization Centers, the National Urban League, SER-Jobs for Progress, United Way of America, Mainstream, the National Puerto Rican Forum, National Council of La Raza, 70,001, Jobs for Youth, organizations operating career intern programs, neighborhood groups and organizations, community action agencies, community development corporations, vocational rehabilitation organizations, rehabilitation facilities, agencies serving youth, agencies serving the handicapped, agencies serving displaced homemakers, union-related organizations, and employer-related nonprofit organizations) and organizations serving non-reservation Indians (including the National Urban Indian Council), as well as tribal governments and Native Alaskan groups.

community-living activities: Priority area activities that will assist persons with developmental disabilities in developing or maintaining suitable residential arrangements and supports in the community (including non-financial supports, individual, family, and community supports).

compensatory skills: The skills of independent living which are available to be taught to a blind/visually impaired individual to assist his/her in living a more fully productive life. Some of those include orientation-mobility, home management tasks like cooking and sewing, and communication skills such as Braille, large print, etc.

competency to stand criminal trial: The test for competency to stand criminal trial applies to the defendant's state of mind at the time of the trial. A person is competent to stand trial when: (1) he understands the nature of the charge he faces and the consequences that may result from his conviction, and (2) he is able to rationally assist his attorney in his defense.

compulsion: An insistent, repetitive, intrusive and unwanted urge to perform an act that is contrary to the person's ordinary wishes or standards. Since it serves as a defensive substitute for still more unacceptable unconscious ideas and wishes, failure to perform the compulsive act leads to overt anxiety. Compulsions are obsessions that are still felt as impulses.

compulsive personality disorder: Restricted ability to express warm and tender emotions; preoccupation with rules, order, organization, efficiency and detail; excessive devotion to work and productivity to the exclusion of pleasure, indecisiveness.

computer-assisted instruction: The use of computers to provide instructional, rehearsal, and testing.

Computerized Axial Tomography (CAT scan): An x-ray of the brain taken to determine the presence of a structural abnormality such as a tumor.

conceptual disorders: A disturbance in the thinking process and in cognitive activities, or in the ability to formulate concepts.

concha: Anatomical landmark of the auricle (outer extension) of the ear.

concrete: Describes an idea or an image of a situation, symbol or object that can be perceived by the senses and derives from an experience that makes it familiar.

concrete mode: A person's learning or cognitive style characterized as learning most efficiently by use of objects and tangible items.

conditioned play audiometry: Audiological evaluation method used by an audiologist whereas the child participates in a play activity (putting a ring on a cone, a block in a box, etc.) each time the signal is heard.

conditioning: The process in which new objects or situations elicit responses that were previously elicited by other stimuli.

conduct disorder: A condition characterized by repetitive and persistent patterns of behavior that violate either the rights of others or age appropriate social norms or rules. Such behaviors may include overt physical aggressions, disruptiveness, negativism, irresponsibility, and defiance of authority.

conductive hearing loss: A type of hearing impairment that occurs when sound is not transmitted efficiently through the ear canal, ear drum, or tiny bones of the middle ear, reducing the loudness or clarity of sound that is heard. Frequent colds, allergies, or certain childhood illnesses may cause a blockage of sound due to fluid in the middle ear, and lead to temporary hearing loss or even permanent damage. Build up of ear wax; inflammation or infection in the middle ear canal; heredity; and birth defects may also cause conductive hearing loss. This kind of hearing loss can often be medically or surgically corrected.

confabulation: Fabrication of facts or events in response to questions about situations or events that are not recalled because of memory impairment. It differs from lying in that the individual is not consciously attempting to deceive. Confabulation is common in organic amnesic syndrome.

confidentiality: The process of keeping private information private, notifying involved persons for permission prior to the sharing of information.

congenital: Present at birth. A condition or disease existing at birth, that is not necessarily caused by inheritance.

congenital aphasia: The inability from birth to comprehend or produce language. This cannot be explained by sensory or motor defects or diffuse cerebral dysfunction.

congenital aural atresia: A condition where the external auditory canal is either malformed or absent at birth.

congenital blindness/adventitious deafness: An individual who has been visually impaired or blind since birth or early childhood and experiences hearing loss in adult life. Most common cause is trauma or infection.

congenital deaf-blindness: An individual who has been visually and hearing impaired since birth or early childhood. A common cause is Congenital Rubella Syndrome as a result of maternal Rubella during pregnancy.

congenital deafness/adventitious blindness: An individual who has been hearing impaired or deaf from birth or early childhood and experiences vision loss in adult life. Most common cause is Usher's Syndrome, the combination of congenital deafness and Retinitis Pigmentosa.

congenital deafness: Hearing loss is present at birth. Those who are born deaf.

congenital heart defects/diseases (CHD): Deformities, diseases, etc., in the heart which are either present at birth, or which, being transmitted direct from the parents, show themselves some time after birth.

Congenital Hypothyroidism: A disease in which the thyroid glands fail to develop normally. As a result, there is little or no thyroid hormone, a substance necessary for normal growth and development of children.

congenital rubella: German measles contracted by a mother during pregnancy, which causes a variety of problems, including mental retardation, deafness, blindness, and other neurological problems.

congenital syphilis: Syphilis transmitted from a pregnant mother to her unborn child, which may cause spontaneous abortion, stillbirth, or other problems in the child.

congestive heart failure: Heart failure or improper functioning because of an unnatural acculation of fluids around the organ.

Conservatorship/Guardianship: A court-ordered mandate by which an individual or institution is appointed (a) to manage the estate of the person judged incapable (not necessarily incompetent) of caring for his/her own affairs; and/or (b) to be responsible for the care and decisions made on behalf of a person when that individual, again, is determined to be unable to care for herself/himself. In some states a guardian assists the person and the conservator assists the estate of the person.

constipation: Difficult, incomplete, or infrequent bowel movements.

construction: Includes construction of new building and acquisition, and expansion, remodeling, and laceration of existing buildings, and includes site grading and improvement and architect fees. Construction is an occupational field that most vocational programs offer training in.

consultant: A specialist whose expertise is in a specific area (examples: vision impairments/blindness, or hearing impairments/deafness, etc.) who assists a team in planning the educational programs for children with disabilities. A consultant also serves as a support person for parents and school staff in terms of special materials, classroom set up, management of assistive technology or supplementary aids, etc. A consultant does not work directly with the child, judge school personnel on their performance, or make final decisions regarding placements.

consultation: Addresses problems by enabling others to work more effectively on educational goals, or specialized expertise is used to facilitate the workings of the educational team.

consulting teacher: Teachers who support regular classroom teachers and their students, through specialized training and assistance in modifying the regular education curriculum and environment to accommodate exceptional students.

consultive services: Assistance provided by specialists to improve the quality of education or other intervention for a person with a disability.

consumer and homemaker education: Instructional programs, services, and activities that prepare youth and adults for the occupation of homemaking, and instruction in the areas of food and nutrition, consumer education, family living and parenthood education, child development and guidance, housing, home management (including resource management), and clothing and textiles.

content errors: Common errors made by children with language problems in which the semantics, or what the child understands or talks about, is limited or inaccurate. The ("match", for example) can have multiple meanings.

continuing disability review (CDR): The process of obtaining complete current information about the disabled individual's condition and any work activity to determine if the Social Security Administration should continue disability payments. (SSDI and SSI programs)

continuum of placements: Range of placements required to be available, as appropriate, for placement of children with disabilities, including regular classroom, regular classroom with itinerant or resource teachers, special classes, home instruction, and instruction in hospital or residential institution.

contract: 1. A written plan of action based on an assessment statement, contextual factors, and problems/needs, goals/objectives, tasks, persons to do task, and dates involved. 2. A legally binding agreement between two or more parties. (Insurance policies are "contracts".)

contraction: Shortening of a muscle to cause movement.

contracture: Stiffening or shortening of muscle caused physiologically and/or by lack of use; result in a reduction of the range of movement of a joint. For example, if an elbow or knee remained bent for extended periods, it could become more and more difficult to straighten.

contributing factors: The factors outside the person that are related to their problem.

controlled, sustained bite: Easy, graded closure of the teeth through the food with an easy, graded release for chewing, seen by approximately 11 to 12 months of age.

conversion deafness: Psychogenic deafness.

conversion symptom: A loss or alteration of physical functioning that suggests a physical disorder but is actually a direct expression of a psychological conflict or need. The disturbance is not under voluntary control, and is not explained by any physical disorder (this possibility having been excluded by appropriate investigation). Conversion symptoms are observed in conversion disorder, and may occur in schizophrenia.

convulsions: Rapidly alternating contractions and relaxations of the muscles, causing irregular movements of the limbs or body generally, and may be accompanied by unconsciousness. They form really only a symptom of some other trouble. The most common cause of convulsions in adults is epilepsy. Convulsions are rarely dangerous to life unless they occur as part of a dangerous condition which is already life threatening.

cooing: Vocalizations or noises which a child makes which consist only of vowel sounds, oo's and ah's.

cooperative care: A program that supplements the military medical system when the military facility does not release the medical management of the patient to a civilian provider.

cooperative education: A method of instruction used in vocational education programs for individuals, who, through written cooperative arrangements between the school and employers, receive instruction (including required academic courses and related vocational instruction) by alteration of study in school with a job in any occupational field. The two experiences must be planned and supervised by the school and employers so that each contributes to the student's education and employability. Work periods and school attendance may be on alternative half days, full days, weeks, or other periods of time in fulfilling the cooperative program.

cooperative learning: The structure, organization, and instruction within a classroom setting that, in all aspects, is consistent with creating an environment that recognizes and respects student diversity and allows students to help one another succeed.

coordination: Acting together in a smooth way. Several muscle groups working together in harmony.

coordination of benefits: The coordination of the payment of CHAMPUS benefits with the payments of benefits made by the double coverage plan so that there is no duplication of benefits paid between the double coverage plan and CHAMPUS.

coping: The ability to adjust and accommodate stressors in one's life without interfering in one's personal, social, and work life.

coping strategies: Any strategy a person uses to reduce feelings of stress; some family members may take positive action, others may attempt to change the way they think.

cornea: The external covering of the eye.

correctional institution: Any prison, jail, reformatory, work farm, detention centers, or halfway house, community-based rehabilitation center, or any other similar institution designed for the confinement or rehabilitation of criminal offenders.

correcto feeding bottle: An infant's bottle designed with an angle which allows normal swallowing with the proper chin tuck and ensures a flow that keeps the bottle full throughout the feeding. This reduces the risk of colic and digestive problems that occur when the baby takes in excess air while sucking.

Corri's organ: A structure in the cochlea; highly specialized cells that translate vibration into nerve impulses that are sent to the brain.

cortical deafness: Central deafness.

cost-share: The patient's share of the cost for authorized care. The Medicaid system and the military's medical plans both use cost-sharing.

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC): Professional organization for persons serving exceptional school age children.

counseling: Advice or help given by someone qualified to give such advice or help (often psychological counseling).

countable income: The amount of money remaining after certain exclusions are deducted from total income - used in determining SSI eligibility.

CP: See "Cerebral Palsy" or "Child Protection".

CPS: See "Child Protection Services".

cranial nerves: Twelve nerves that connect the brain with the muscles and sense organs of the face, neck, eyes, ears, nose, and mouth.

creative problem solving: The process of group interaction and consistent step-by-step processes to identify solutions, prioritize solution options, select a solution option, and collectively solve problems. Creative problem solving is based on the premise that a team of persons can provide better solutions than any individual in isolation.

crib-o-gram: A hearing test done primarily on newborns while still in the hospital. It measures and records an infant's movements following the presentation of acoustic stimuli (sound) with a motion sensing device attached to the crib.

criminal offender: Identified as a "special population", any individual who is charged with or convicted of any criminal offense, including a youth offender or a juvenile offender.

Crippled Children's Division (CCD): A program for children with physical impairments.

crisis: A turning point in the course of anything, decisive or crucial time, stage or event.

crisis advocacy: A voluntary meeting instrumental and/or expressive needs experienced by a person in an emergency or crisis situation. In contrast to most types of citizen advocacy, the special relationship of this type of advocacy may be of relatively short duration.

crisis intervention: Brief therapy with individual, families, groups, communities, and/or organizations who have experienced a catastrophic loss or change. The loss or change diminishes the individuals/etc. problem-solving capacities as well as normal psycho-social behavioral functioning.

criteria: The information that is described to demonstrate mastery of a skill. See also "criterion-referenced assessment".

criterion-referenced assessment: Referring to assessment that compares a person's performance to some specific established level (the criterion) or a specific degree of mastery; his or her performance is not compared with that of other people.

crosscategorical definitions: An approach to grouping individuals with learning and behavior disorders on the basis of the severity of the problem rather than traditional categorical labels.

CSD: See "Communication Services for the Deaf".

CSP: See "Community Support Program".

CST: See "Child Study Team".

CT Scan: See "Computerized Axial Tomography".

CTS: See "Community Training Services".

cued speech: A communication method used by people with hearing disorders, which combines hand signals (cues) with speech-reading. Gestures provide additional information regarding sounds not identifiable by lip reading.

cultural labeling approach: An approach to labeling that defines normalcy relative to standards established by a particular social structure.

cultural pluralism: A view of multiple cultural subgroups living together in a manner that maintains subsocietal differences, thereby continuing each group's cultural or ethnic traditions.

cultural-familial: A term applied to people with mental retardation whose condition may be attributable to both sociocultural and genetic factors.

curriculum materials: Instructional and related or supportive materials, including materials using advanced learning technology, in any occupational field which is designed to strengthen the academic foundation with prepare individuals for employment at the entry level or to upgrade occupational competencies of those previously or presently employed in any occupational field, and appropriate counseling and guidance material.

curriculum specialist: A professional who provides consultive support services to classroom teachers in the areas of curriculum design and implementation strategies.

custodial: A level of mental retardation, based on educability expectation, which involves measured intelligence below 40. Often unable to achieve sufficient skills even to care for basic needs and usually require significant care and supervision during the person's lifetime.

custodial care: Care that primarily supports and maintains the patient's condition without active or aggressive medical treatment. The patient is mentally or physically disabled, and the disability is expected to continue and be prolonged.

custom contoured (or molded) seating: The use of custom (individualized) forming of a seating system around a child's body contours, often while applying specific support to correct or improve postural problems. Sometimes referred to as custom seating systems.

cut-out-cups: A drinking cup which has been cut along one side to allow a space for the nose when the cup is tipped. This allows the cup to be tipped to reach liquid in the bottom without simultaneously tipping back the individual's head in order to drink.

cyanosis: A condition in which a lack of oxygen in the blood causes the blood to be darker and the skin to look bluish.

cystic fibrosis (CF): A childhood disease in which a large amount of mucus is produced causing lung damage, and which results in poor absorption of fat and protein. Because its symptoms are not always the same, it is often mistaken for diseases such as asthma, allergy, chronic bronchitis, malabsorption, or celiac disease. Due to lung problems, children with CF commonly suffer from anorexia and decreased calorie intake. When combined with poor nutrient absorption, these factors often result in growth failure. Both parents must be carriers of this disease in order for it to be passed onto a child. Currently there is no test to determine if a person is a carrier.

cytomegalic inclusion: A condition in newborns due to infection by cytomegalovirus (CMV).

cytomegalovirus (CMV): Any of a group of DNA viruses causing the enlargement of the epithelial cells, especially the salivary glands, and associated with pneumonia and with abnormalities in newborn infants that affect various organs, resulting in mental retardation and other diseases. See also "cytomegalic inclusion".

D

DAC: See "Disabled Adult Child".

DAI: See "direct audio input".

daily variability: As used in relation to the ability to hear: Anything that effects a person's hearing on a given day, such as colds, ear infection, malfunctioning hearing aids, and barometric changes.

day care: Custodial care during the day.

day school program: A specialized program provided in a facility, a school district, or a cooperative center that a child attends during the day, returning home at night.

day treatment: Community-based, nonresidential program of services for children. It is the most intensive program available that still allows the child to remain in the home.

dB: See "decibel".

DD: See "Developmental Disorder" or "Developmentally Delayed".

DDD: Division of Developmental Disabilities.

deaf: 1. A term used to categorize individuals who have hearing losses greater than 75 to 80 dB, have vision as their primary input, and cannot understand speech through the ear even with the use of hearing aids. The sense of hearing for a person who is deaf is nonfunctional for the ordinary purposes of life. 2. As defined in P.L. 94-142: Hearing impairment so severe as to impede the child from processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, and which adversely affects educational performance.

deaf-blind: A term used to describe a person who has a substantial degree of loss of both sight and hearing which combined results in functional difficulties in the areas of development, education, vocation and/or independent living. One of the losses may be progressive, which in combination with the other sensory loss, may lead to severe dual sensory impairments.

DEC: See "Division of Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children".

DECA: See "Department of Education and Cultural Affairs".

decibel (dB): A unit of measuring the intensity (loudness) of sound; a unit of hearing or audition. Extent of hearing is expressed as the number of decibels necessary for the person to hear pure tones above the baseline used to measure normal hearing. A person's hearing ability is graphed on a dB scale.

decongestant: A medicine used to dry up excess mucous caused by an upper respiratory infection.

decubitus ulcer: More commonly called a "pressure sore". A breakdown of skin tissue caused by: pressure on the skin, especially around bony areas (knees, heels, buttocks), when a child remains in one position for a long period of time, especially without padding; friction under a brace; moisture from perspiration; moisture and chemicals from incontinence. A pressure sore, which begins as a red spot on the skin, can progress to an open wound with very serious medical complications. Parents and the team need to establish a daily routine for prevention which includes periodic pressure relief (e.g. by changing position) and the use of appropriate cushions.

deductible: A flat amount which the insured must pay before the insurance company will make any benefit payments under a policy.

deeming: The process of considering another person's income and resources to be the income and resources of the individual who is applying for or receiving SSI benefits.

DEERS: See "Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System".

Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS): A database used in the military system to verify beneficiary eligibility.

defensive behavior: Behavior that is for the purpose of protecting the individual or avoiding unpleasant ideas, thoughts and consequences.

deficit model: Intervention strategies emphasizing remediation/accommodation of the deficits or needs of the person or child. It's more a "fix the problem" model of providing services, rather than emphasizing the child's strengths and building on those.

degenerative neurological disease: A condition that progressively destroys parts of the nervous system. This means that the symptoms of the condition become worse as time passes.

delayed language: A language disorder in which there is a noticeable slowness in the development of the vocabulary and grammar necessary for expressing and understanding thoughts and ideas.

delayed speech: Failure of speech to develop at the expected age. More specifically: A deficit in speaking proficiency where the individual performs like someone much younger.

delinquent: A child or youth (usually under 18) who is found by a juvenile court to have broken a law.

delirium: An acute organic mental disorder characterized by confusion and altered, possibly fluctuating consciousness due to an alteration of cerebral metabolism which may include delusions, illusions and/or hallucinations. The condition is reversible except when followed by dementia or death. Often emotional changes, typically appearing as anxiety and agitation, is present. Contrast with dementia.

delirium tremens: An acute and sometimes fatal brain disorder (in 10-15% of untreated cases) caused by total or partial withdrawal from excessive alcohol intake. Usually develops in 24-96 hours after cessation of drinking. Symptoms include fever, tremors, ataxia and sometimes convulsions, frightening illusions, delusions and hallucinations. The condition is often accompanied by nutritional deficiencies. It is a medical emergency.

delusion: A false personal belief based on incorrect inference about external reality and firmly sustained in spite of what almost everyone else believes and in spite of what constitutes incontrovertible and obvious proof or evidence to the contrary. The belief is not one ordinarily accepted by other members of the person's culture or subculture (i.e., it is not an article of religious faith). Delusions are subdivided according to their content, such as: delusion of being controlled, bizarre delusion, grandiose delusion, delusional jealousy, nihilistic delusion, persecutory delusion, delusion of poverty, delusion of reference, somatic delusion, and systematized delusions.

dementia: An organic mental disorder in which there is a deterioration or previously acquired intellectual abilities of sufficient severity to interfere with social or occupational functioning. Memory disturbance is the most prominent symptom. In addition, there is impairment of abstract thinking, judgement, impulse control and/or personality change. Dementia may be progressive, static or reversible, depending on the pathology with the availability of effective treatment. See also senile dementia. Contrast with delirium.

denasality: A voice resonance problem that occurs when too little air passes through the nasal cavity.

denial: When a person fails to acknowledge some aspect of external reality that would be apparent to others.

DEP: See "dependent".

Department of Education and Cultural Affairs (DECA): The state department of government which is responsible for monitoring and assistance to schools in provision of educational services for children birth through age 21.

Department of Social Services (DSS, SS): State and county agencies mandated to provide needed services to the communities, e.g., child protection, adult services, financial assistance, etc.

dependent (DEP): Any spouse or child of an active-duty, retired or deceased active-duty or retired person of the uniformed services.

dependent personality disorder: Inducing others to assume responsibility for major areas of one's life; subordinating one's own needs to those of others on whom one is dependent to avoid any possibility of independence; lack of self-confidence.

dependent-care services: Appropriate care and protection of infants, preschool and school-age children and dependent adults in order to afford students who are parents or heads of households the opportunity to participate in vocational education programs.

depersonalization: An alteration in the perception or experience of the self so that the feeling of one's own reality is temporarily lost. This is manifested in a sense of self-estrangement or unreality, which may include the feeling that one's extremities have changed in size, or a sense of seeming to perceive oneself from a distance (usually from above). Depersonalization is seen in depersonalization disorder, and may also occur in schizotypal personality disorder and schizophrenia. It also occurs in the absence of any mental disorder in the presence of overwhelming anxiety, stress or fatigue.

depressed: A type of bipolar disorder characterized by lowered mood, slowed thinking, decreased movement or agitation, loss of interest, guilt, lowered self-esteem, sleep disturbance and decreased appetite.

devaluation: A mechanism in which a person attributes exaggeratedly negative qualities to themselves or others.

development: Growing both physically and mentally.

developmental: Having to do with the steps or stages in growth and development before the age of 18.

developmental age: The actual age score a child receives within a specific developmental area as compared to the chronological age.

developmental aphasia: A language disorder in children, caused by brain damage, that is characterized by complete or partial impairment of language comprehension, formulation, and use.

developmental assessment: Standardized tests that are intended to document the emergence of a sequence of behaviors, skills, or abilities over a period of time.

developmental delay: When a child's development progresses at a slower rate than most children.

developmental disability (DD): 1. A handicap or impairment originating before the age of 18 which may be expected to continue indefinitely and which constitutes a substantial impairment. The disability may be attributable to mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or other neurologic conditions and may include autism. 2. According to the Developmental Disabilities Act: When applied to infants and young children it means: Individuals from birth to age 5, inclusive, who have substantial developmental delay or specific congenital or acquired conditions with a high probability of resulting in developmental disabilities if services are not provided. For persons 5 years of age or older it's defined as: A severe, chronic disability which: (A) is attributable to a mental or physical impairment or combination of mental and physical impairments; (B) is manifested before the person attains age twenty-two; (C) is likely to continue indefinitely; (D) results in substantial functional limitations in three or more of the following areas of major life activity: (i) self care, (ii) receptive and expressive language, (iii) learning, (iv) mobility, (v) self-direction, (vi) capacity for independent living, and (vii) economic self-sufficiency; and (E) reflects the person's need for a combination and sequence of special, interdisciplinary, or generic care, treatment, or other services which are of lifelong or extended duration and are individually planned and coordinated.

developmental history: The developmental progress of a child (ages birth to 18 years) in such skills as sitting, walking, or talking.

developmental labeling approach: An approach to labeling that is based on deviations in the course of development from what is considered normal.

developmental milestones: Things an infant does while he/she is getting older, such as walking, saying a first word, sitting up, etc. These stages of growth must occur for later stages to develop properly (standing before walking).

developmental period: 1. The time between conception and 18 years of age, during which physical and mental growth occurs. The period in which developmental disabilities usually originate. 2. As stated in the AAMR definition of mental retardation, the period of time between birth and the eighteenth birthday.

developmental sequences: The sequence that must be in place for the next level to happen.

developmental tests: Standardized tests that measure a child's development as it compares to the development of all other children at that age.

deviant: A term used to describe the negative behavior of individuals who are unable to adapt to social rules, customs, or norms (including sexual behavior), or to establish appropriate interpersonal relationships.

DHHS: United States Department of Health and Human Services.

DHS: Department of Human Services.

diabetes mellitus: A disease caused by a lack of insulin production by the pancreas. Diabetes is usually familial in nature, and it results in a disordered metabolism of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. Diabetes can be treated with diet and insulin.

diabetic coma: A situation in which a diabetic does not have sufficient insulin and becomes drowsy, then unconscious.

diagnosis: 1. Naming the cause of a disorder by looking at its symptoms. 2. The process of identifying specific mental or physical disorders. Some use the term more broadly to refer to a comprehensive evaluation not limited to the identification of specific disorders.

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (3rd Edition

Revised) (DSM IIIR): A classification system for mental illnesses developed by the American Psychiatric Association. Axes I through V are used by the DSM IIIR to establish diagnosis. Axis I specifies Clinical Syndromes and Axis V Codes which are conditions not attributable to a mental disorder but are a focus for attention or treatment. Axis II relates to developmental and personality disorders. Axis III denotes physical disorders and conditions usually confirmed by physicians. Axis IV distinguishes the severity of psychosocial stressors involved in a person's life. Axis V relates to the global assessment of functioning (GAF Scale).

dialysis: A procedure in which a machine is used to clear wastes from the blood. Dialysis is necessary when the kidneys are not functioning properly.

diarrhea: Excessive bowel movements of loose, watery stools, which can be acute or chronic. Chronic diarrhea may lead to nutrient deficiencies because food may be passing through the intestinal tract too quickly for nutrients to be absorbed. Acute diarrhea may lead to electrolyte imbalances and dehydration which can be life threatening.

dietitian: An individual who has been trained to work with individuals on nutritional issues.

differentiated education: Instruction and learning activities that are uniquely and predominately suited to the capacities and interests of gifted students.

digit: A finger or toe.

diplegia: Paralysis that affects both sides of the body, due to injury of both hemispheres of the brain. More commonly affects the legs more than the arms.

diplopia: Double vision.

Diphtheria: A serious bacterial infection which can cause pneumonia, heart failure, nerve damage, or death by suffocation. Immunization with the DTP vaccine protects children against this disease. See "Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis: vaccine for immunization schedule.

Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (DTP): An immunization vaccine protecting infants from Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis diseases. Recommended to be administered at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15 months, and 4-6 years of age.

direct audio input (DAI): Allows direct connection of a hearing aid to a telephone handset, radio, TV, movie projector, stereo, or other special listening system.

direct services: Providing services in a manner which addresses individualized needs that require specialized intervention strategies which can be performed only by the specialist providing the service (i.e., occupational therapist). Generally requires frequent contact between the child and the therapist.

directory information: Information contained in an educational record of a student which would not generally be considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed, such as the student's name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended.

disability: 1. A particular act that someone has problems performing, like reading a book, running or dressing, because of an impairment. A disability is not a handicap unless the individual with a disability must function in a particular activity that is impeded by his or her physical limitation, or because society has said he or she is "unable" to perform activities for which they, in fact, are able to perform. 2. The result of any physical or mental condition that affects or prevents one's ability to develop, achieve, and/or function in educational and social settings within the "normal" rate of growth and development.

disabled: 1. One who has a disability. See also "disability". 2. As defined in eligibility for the SSI program for a person 18 years or older, having a physical or mental impairment or combination of impairments which prevents him/her from working and is expected to last at least 12 months or to result in death. For a child under 18, having a physical or mental impairment that is comparable in severity to one that would prevent an adult from working and is expected to last at least 12 months or result in death. See also, "disadvantaged".

Disabled Adult Child (DAC): A term used by the Social Security Administration referring to an individual who is permanently disabled prior to the age of 22. In addition, he or she previously must have been dependent on an insured worker who is deceased, retired, or disabled.

disadvantaged: As used in Vocational Education, individuals identified: 1) as not succeeding or cannot be expected to succeed in a regular vocational program without special assistance, 2) as an individual, not by groups, 3) by the effect, not the cause, of his/her disadvantaged condition, and 4) where the disadvantaged condition is a contributing factor to his/her lack of success. See also "disabled".

disclosure: To permit access to or the release, transfer, or other communication of education records or the personally identifiable information contained in those records to any party, by any means, including oral, written, or electronic.

discretionary: Left to one's discretion, regulated by one's own judgement or choice.

discrimination: 1. Any action which limits or denies a person or a group of persons opportunities, privileges, roles, or rewards on the basis of their sex, age, race, handicap, national origin, and/or religious persuasion. 2. As in "word" discrimination, the ability to repeat and write words that are heard, as a list of 50 monosyllables.

disorder: A disturbance in normal functioning (mental, physical, or psychological). disorders associated with immaturity and inadequacy: Behavioral disorders in which an individual may be exceptionally clumsy, socially inadequate, or easily flustered.

disorganized schizophrenia: Characterized by disorganized thinking, shallow and inappropriate affect, inappropriate giggling, silly and regressive behavior and mannerisms and frequent hypochondriacal complaints. Delusions and hallucinations are usually bizarre and disorganized. Also known as "hebephrenic".

disorientation: Confusion about the date or time of day, where one is (place), or who one is (identity). Disorientation is characteristic of some organic mental disorders, such as delirium and dementia.

dispersed advocacy: A situation where a protege is served by more than one advocate, usually in different roles. An example would be a person who has both an instrumental and an expressive advocate, or an adult advocate working with an advocate cadet. Synonymous with co-advocacy.

displaced homemakers: Persons (female and male) who have been homemakers but who are seeking employment as a result of being separated, divorced, or widowed or having a disabled spouse; or single heads of households who lack adequate job skills.

displacement: A mechanism in which a person generalizes or redirects a feeling about an object or a response to an object onto another, usually less threatening object.

dissociation: A mental condition in which ideas or desires are separated from the mainstream of consciousness or from one's personality to a degree that they are no longer accessible to memory or consciousness. The individual has difficulty or is unable to perceive things or situations as a whole, but instead tends to respond to stimuli in terms of parts or segments.

distal: Farthest from one point of reference.

distortion: 1. A change in a sound or wave-form causing inexact reproduction. 2. An articulation error in which there are inaccurate productions of phonemes that resemble the target form. Some examples of these distortions are the lisps (lateral and dental), palatal distortions (where the wrong part of the tongue is used to form s, z, sh, and zh sounds), and the retroflex distortions (too much curling of the tip of the tongue).

distractibility: Attention drawn too frequently to unimportant or irrelevant external stimuli. Example: While being interviewed, a subject's attention is repeatedly drawn to noise from an adjoining office, a book that is on a shelf or the interviewer's school ring.

Division of Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children

(DEC): The professional organization for persons serving preschool children with handicaps.

DME: See "durable medical equipment".

DODDS: Department of Defense Dependent Schools.

DOE: Department of Education.

domains: Cognition, gross and fine motor; language; social-emotional; self-help.

double coverage: The patient also has entitlement to insurance, medical service, health and medical plan, or other government program through employment, law, membership in an organization or as a student (including entitlement by reason of being retired from an organization or group), which in whole or in part duplicates CHAMPUS benefits. This does not include entitlement to receive care from the Uniformed Services Medical Care System.

double hemiplegia: Paralysis that involves both sides of the body, with one side being more greatly affected.

Down Syndrome: A condition resulting from a chromosomal abnormality, primarily the presence of an extra (or part of) a chromosome. Characteristic features include mental retardation of varying degrees, epicanthal folds, oval-shaped eyes, thicker tongue, short neck, microcephaly, looseness of the joints, flat bridge of nose, etc. Previously referred to as "mongolism".

DRS: Division of Rehabilitation Services.

DSM III-R: A manual used for diagnosing psychological problems. See also "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (3rd Edition Revised)".

DSS: See "Department of Social Services".

DSW: Doctorate degree in Social Work.

DTP: See "Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis".

dual enrollment: When a student attends both a public and private (or specialized) school to receive his/her education. An example is for a child who is deaf, to attend classes at the SD School for the Deaf, and also have some classes in the public school system with the assistance of an interpreter.

due process: A legal term referring to an action that protects a person's rights; in special education, this applies to action taken to protect the educational rights of students with handicaps.

Due Process Hearing: A formal legal proceeding presided over by an impartial public official who listens to both sides of the dispute and renders a decision based upon the law.

durable medical equipment (DME): Medical equipment that costs more than \$100.00, withstands repeated use (reusable), improves function or retards any further deterioration of a physical condition, and primarily provides a medical function and not simply transportation.

DVR: See "vocational rehabilitation".

dyadic relationship: A relationship between two people; a two-part relationship.

dysarthria: A group of speech problems where sounds may be slurred, and speech may be slow or effortful. Changes in pitch, loudness, rhythm, and quality of speech may also be noticed. Such problems are due to paralysis, weakness, or incoordination of muscles used in speaking. Dysarthria occurs in both children and adults, and is associated with neuromuscular diseases such as cerebral palsy, parkinsonism, Lou Gehrig's disease, or later stages of multiple sclerosis. It can also occur from stroke, brain injury, and tumors.

dyscalculia: Lack of ability to perform mathematical functions, usually associated with neurological dysfunction or brain damage.

dysgraphia: Extremely poor handwriting or the inability to perform the motor movements required for handwriting. The condition is often associated with neurological dysfunction.

dyskinesia: A physical condition caused by partial impairment of the coordination of voluntary muscles, which results in obvious clumsy movements and poor physical control.

dyslexia: A type of learning disability where, despite conventional classroom experience, a person may have problems remembering and recognizing written letters, numbers, and words, might read backwards, and have poor handwriting. The term is frequently used when neurological dysfunction is suspected as the cause of the reading disability.

dyslogomathia: See "dysmanthia".

dysmanthia: Term used to refer to a difficulty in learning, especially in learning language.

dysphagia: Difficult or painful swallowing.

dysphoric mood: An unpleasant mood, such as depression, anxiety, or irritability.

dyspraxia: Inability to perform coordinated movements, especially speech, with no apparent problem in the muscles or nerves.

dystomia: Abnormally small mouth.

dystonia: Acute tonic muscular spasms, often of the tongue, jaw, eyes, and neck, but sometimes of the whole body. Sometimes occurs during the first few days of antipsychotic drug administration.

E

earhook: The extension of a behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aid that conducts amplified sound from the hearing aid to the tubing, which in turn channels the amplified sound to the earmold and into the ear.

early childhood specialist: Someone who specializes in early childhood development, usually having a Master's degree or Ph.D. in an area related to early childhood education and/or development.

early childhood teacher: An individual trained in child development of nonhandicapped children.

early childhood education of the handicapped teacher: An individual trained in child development and education of handicapped children.

early interventionists: Those that provide early intervention services to children 0-5 (family, professional, etc.) with disabilities. The services are intended to enhance developmental outcomes. An educational interventionist is most closely associated with cognition, social-emotional and self-help skills. There is a strong crossover to motor skills and family needs; infant interventionist is a professional concerned with development in infants and young children at risk or with handicapping conditions.

early intervention programs or services: Programs or services designed to meet the developmental needs of each eligible infant or toddler and their family under Part H and also to meet the needs of the family as they relate to enhancing the child's development. Such services are designed to (A) identify, assess, and treat developmental disabilities at the earliest possible time to prevent more serious disability; (B) ensure the maximum growth and development of the child; and to (C) assist families in raising a child with a developmental disability.

Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program

(EPSDT): A program within the Medicaid Program for children under 21 years of age. The EPSDT program promotes prevention and/or early detection and treatment of problems and conditions through periodic health screening. Information regarding the problems and conditions through periodic health screening. Information regarding the EPSDT Program may be obtained from the Office of Medical Services.

earmold: A plastic piece that is molded to fit the user's ear and generally has a short tube attached. It channels sound from the earhook or receiver of a hearing aid into the ear canal.

earned income: One type of income considered when determining eligibility for the SSI program. It includes wages, net earnings from self-employment, and income received from sheltered workshops.

eating disorders: Conditions that include abnormal fears regarding eating; significant weight loss from either not eating or regurgitating food; disturbed body image; binge eating; and eating nonnutritive substances. Bulimia and anorexia nervosa are examples of eating disorders.

EBD: See "Emotional/Behavioral Disorder".

echolalia: A meaningless repetition or imitation of words that are heard. Typical echolalia tends to be repetitive and persistent. The echo is often uttered with a mocking, mumbling or staccato intonation. Echolalia should not be confused with habituation repetition of questions, apparently to clarify the question and formulate its answer, as when a patient is asked, "When did you come to the hospital?" and replies "Come to the hospital? Yesterday." Echolalia is observed in some pervasive developmental disorders, organic mental disorders and in schizophrenia.

ecomap: A visual portrayal of an assessment of sources of external supports available to the family of a child with a disability.

economically disadvantaged person: Identified as a "special population", individuals who receive free or reduced lunch, receive AFDC, receive benefits under the Food Stamp Act, receive services under Title I, Chapter I of the Education Act of 1965, or have other indicators of economic status which identify them as in need of economic assistance.

ecosystem: A system which describes the relationship between the distribution of human groups with reference to material resources, and the consequent social and cultural patterns.

eczema: A dry, scaling condition of the skin, usually the result of allergy.

ED: See "Emotional Disturbance".

Ed.D.: Doctor of Education, indicates a doctoral degree in education.

edema: Swelling of the body caused by abnormal accumulation of fluid in the tissues of the body.

EDP: See "Equipment Distribution Program".

educability expectation: A parameter of classification that represents a prediction of expected educational achievement.

educable: A level of mental retardation, based on educability expectation, which involves measured intelligence of 55 to about 70, with academic achievement at the second to fifth grade level. Social adjustment often permits some degree of independence in the community and occupational sufficiency permits partial or total self-support.

Education of All Handicapped Children Act (EHA): Public Law 94-142, federal legislation passed in 1975, which makes available a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) for all handicapped children in the United States.

education records: Records directly related to a student and maintained by an educational agency or institution or by a party acting for the agency or institution.

educational blindness: Refers to whether a student must use Braille when reading.

EEG: See "electroencephalogram".

EFM or EFMP: Exceptional Family Member or Exceptional Family Member Program.

ego: 1. A term based on psychoanalytic theory that refers to the reality component of one's subconscious. 2. The ego mediates between the person and reality. The ego develops gradually, dependent upon physical maturation and upon experiential factors. Its prime function is the perception of reality and adaptation to it. The various tasks of the ego include: perception, including self-perception and self-awareness; motor control (action); adaptation to reality; use of the reality principle and the mechanism of anxiety to ensure safety and self-preservation.

ego-dystonic: A symptom or personality trait that is recognized by the individual as unacceptable and undesirable and is experienced as alien. Examples: obsessions and compulsions; a homosexual arousal pattern that is unacceptable to the individual would be ego-dystonic, whereas, if the individual were not distressed by the pattern and experienced it as acceptable, it would be ego-syntonic.

egocentrism: State in which one sees the external world only from his viewpoint, without awareness of other points of view.

EH: Emotionally Handicapped. See "Emotional Disturbance" for definition.

EHA: See "Education of All Handicapped Children Act".

elderly: As defined for eligibility for the SSI program, 65 years old or older.

elective mutism: A childhood disorder where the youngster has speaking abilities but chooses not to use them; a persistent refusal to talk.

electroacoustic aids: A general term referring to electronic devices that assist a person to hear.

electroencephalogram (EEG): A record of brain wave patterns made with an instrument known as an electroencephalograph. This test measures electrical impulses generated by the cerebral cortex during brain functioning and prints these patterns in the form of a graph.

electromyogram: An electrical test of muscle contraction.

electronic devices: Devices used to assist people who are blind. Includes CCTV (a device to magnify print); computers with programs to enlarge print and give large print or braille output; telecommunication devices (TDD's), etc.

elevated mood: A mood that is more cheerful than normal; it does not necessarily imply pathology.

eligibility: 1. The quality or state of being eligible: fit to be chosen; legally or normally qualified; suitable; desirable.

eligible: Able to qualify.

eligible expenses: Medical expenses for which a health insurance policy will provide benefits.

eligible recipient: As used in relation to vocational training, any local public education agency or a postsecondary institution with a legally constituted local board of education offering or developing a vocational program.

eligible student: As used in the rules pertaining to special education: A person under the age of twenty-one years who is a resident of the state of South Dakota who requires special education or special education and related services because of his educational needs.

elimination period: A specific period of time, beginning at the onset of a disability, which must pass before any policy benefits will be paid. Also referred to as a "waiting period".

Emotional Disturbance (ED or SED): A condition exhibiting one or more of the following characteristics over a long period of time and to a marked degree, which disrupts the child's or adolescent's educational, academic, or developmental performance: 1. An inability to learn which cannot be explained by intellectual sensory, or health factors; 2. An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers; 3. A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression; or a tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems. (Currently these students are labeled as Seriously Emotionally Disturbed.)

emotional skills: Skills that assist in the emotional well-being of the child.

Emotional/Behavioral Disorder (EBD): A combination of behavioral and emotional disturbances. Individuals with this disorder are not able to control their emotional disturbances. Individuals with this disorder are not able to control their emotions enough to maintain behavior within an acceptable range. Students who are mildly disturbed may be served through continued placement in regular classes with supporting service from an itinerant teacher. See also "Emotional Disturbance".

Emotionally Handicapped (EH): See "Emotional Disturbance".

emphysema: A condition where the lungs are unable to perform properly, causing shortness of breath.

employability skills: Skills relating to choosing a career, getting and keeping a job, making job and career changes, and career advancement.

employment activities: Priority area activities that will increase the independence, productivity, or integration of a person with developmental disabilities in work settings.

empowerment: The interaction of professionals with families in such a way that families maintain or acquire a sense of control over their family lives and attribute positive changes that result from early intervention to their own strengths, abilities, and actions.

enabling: Creating opportunities and means for families to display their present abilities and competencies and to acquire new ones that are necessary to meet the needs of their children and themselves.

encephalitis: An inflammation of brain tissue.

encopresis: Inability to control one's bowels. This problem can usually be helped by seeking a physician's or psychologists' assistance.

endocarditis: Inflammation of the lining of the heart.

endocrinologist: A medical doctor who diagnoses and treats disorders of hormone-secreting (endocrine) organs. An endocrinologist may see a child with diabetes, for example, because diabetes is a disease caused by a malfunction in the production of insulin.

endogenous: Originating or developing from within an organism or one of its parts, as from congenital or hereditary factors.

endorsement: See "rider".

enrichment: Educational experiences for gifted students that enhance their thinking skills and extend their knowledge in various areas.

enteral: Through the digestive tract.

entitlement: To give a right, claim or legal title to; quality.

enuresis: Lack of bladder control. In diurnal enuresis, wetting occurs during the day; in nocturnal enuresis, wetting occurs at night.

environment: The world around you.

environment bias: A subjective point of view based on the environment (culture and social structure).

environmentally at risk: Early life events that are associated with less than optional development outcomes (e.g., maternal education, low social support, or high levels of family parenting/stress).

EOB: See "explanation of benefits".

EOWPVT: See "Expressive One-Word Picture Vocabulary Test".

EPE: See "Extended Period of Eligibility".

epiphora: An overflow of tears from obstruction of the lacrimal ducts of the eye.

epicanthal fold: A vertical fold of skin on either side of the nose, which covers the innermost portion of the eye. The presence of this fold gives individuals with Down Syndrome the appearance of slanted eyes.

epidemiology: Having to do with the relationships of the various factors which determine the frequencies and distributions of an infectious process, a disease or a physiological state in a human community.

epilepsy: A physical condition that occurs when there is a sudden, brief change in how the brain works. When brain cells are not working properly, a person's consciousness, movement, or actions may be altered for a short time. These physical changes are called epileptic seizures. Epilepsy is therefore sometimes called a seizure disorder. However, people may experience a seizure and not have epilepsy. These seizures may be confined to elementary or complex impairment of behavior (petit mal) or may progress to a generalized convulsion (grand mal).

EPSDT: See "Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment Program".

equal access: 1. The elimination of barrier that prohibits any child from participating in activities typically engaged in by other children. 2. As used in vocational education: Providing the same opportunity for quality vocational education to include handicapped and disadvantaged individuals and other special populations including provisions for recruitment, enrollment in all programs, and placement of these individuals in jobs.

equilibrium reactions: Bodily reactions to retain state of balance in relation to gravity.

equinus: Involuntary extension of the foot. This position is often found in spastic cerebral palsy.

Equipment Distribution Program (EDP): A program for people who have difficulty hearing or speaking on the phone. If eligible, the person may receive equipment at no cost to help them have better use of the phone. In South Dakota, Communication Services for the Deaf provides this program (1-800-622-1770 or 339-6718 in Sioux Falls).

estate: All of a person's possessions including all properties and debts remaining at the time of death.

ESY: See "Extended School Year".

ethnicity: Being ethnic: designating one of any of the basic divisions or groups of mankind, as distinguished by customs, characteristics, language, etc.

ethnocentrism: The belief that one's own group or culture is superior.

etiology: The cause(s) of a condition, particularly in reference to disease. Also used as a parameter of classification.

euphoric mood: An exaggerated feeling of well-being. As a technical term, euphoria implies a pathological mood. Whereas the individual with a normally elevated mood may describe himself as being in "good spirits", "very happy", "or "cheerful", the euphoric person is likely to exclaim that he is "on top of the world" or "up in the clouds" or to say, "I feel ecstatic" or "I'm flying".

eustachian tube: A structure that extends from the throat to the middle-ear cavity and controls air flow between the two.

euthymic mood: Mood in the "normal" range, which implies the absence of depressed or elevated mood.

evaluation: 1. As applies to educational settings: A way of collecting information (includes testing, observations, and parental input) about a student's learning needs, strengths, and interests. The evaluation is part of the process of determining whether a student qualifies for special education programs and services. 2. A process conducted by mental health professionals that results in an opinion about a child's mental or emotional capacity, and may include recommendations about treatment or placement. See "assessment".

evaluation criteria: The measurement in percentages of goals/tasks accomplished.

exaggerated jaw closure: Excessive closure of the jaw on feeding utensils used to obtain external jaw stability during feeding; occurs as a compensation for excessive jaw instability; not due to problems in tolerating oral tactile stimulation.

exaggerated tongue protrusion: An exaggerated amount of forward tongue movement as the tongue moves forward/backward in a pattern similar to suckling; tongue may have a thickened appearance.

exceptional: Refers to any individual whose physical, mental, or behavioral performance deviates so substantially (higher or lower) from the average that additional services are necessary to meet the individual's needs.

excess cost: Costs of special programs, services, and activities made available exclusively to persons identified as disadvantaged or handicapped and not made available to regular students.

exchange transfusion: Replacing blood with that which is fresh and has normal characteristics.

Executor/Personal Representative: The individuals or corporations that are appointed in the Will who will have the legal responsibility for carrying out the provision of the Will to the best of their ability according to the current laws of the land. The executor may seek the assistance of an attorney to complete the probate process.

exocrine glands: Glands that secrete through a duct, as contrasted with ductless (endocrine) glands.

exogenous: Resulting from other than congenital or hereditary factors, i.e., factors external to the organism; e.g., a language impairment resulting from cerebral trauma.

expansive mood: Lack of restraint in expressing one's feelings, frequently with an overevaluation of one's significance of importance. There may also be elevated or euphoric mood.

explanation of benefits (EOB): A statement issued by an insurance claims processor explaining how a claim was handled, e.g., what was paid.

exploratory courses: Courses designed to give students initial exposure to the skills and aptitudes associated with a broad range of occupations in order to assist them in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals.

explosive personality: A disorder of impulse control in which episodes of serious outbursts of relatively unprovoked aggression lead to assault on others or destruction of property where there is no organic, epileptic or other personality disorder that might account for the behavior. Also called intermittent explosive personality.

expressive (guide-) advocacy: A volunteer meeting a person's need for relationship, communication, warmth, attention, love and emotional support. In contrast, see "instrumental advocacy".

expressive aphasia: Defect in or loss of power of expression by speech, writing or gesture, resulting from injury or disease of the brain centers.

expressive language disability/disorders: 1. A learning disability in which a person has difficulty expressing oneself through speech. 2. Difficulties in language production.

expressive language: The ideas, concepts and feelings the child is able to share through speech, signing, gestures, etc.

expressive language skills: Skills required to produce language for communication with other individuals. Speaking and writing are expressive language skills.

Expressive One-Word Picture Vocabulary Test (EOWPVT): A testing instrument which identifies an object, idea or concept from a picture.

extended family: Any family member that has significant contact and interacts on a regular basis with a child and his/her family.

Extended Period of Eligibility (EPE): An eligibility grace period (minimum of 36 months) which permits the reinstatement of SSDI benefits, without a new application or disability determination, to those persons whose disability benefits were previously ceased because of substantial gainful activity. During this time, he or she can work and receive benefits for months in which gross earnings are below \$500.00 without filing a new application. EPE begins with the first month following the conclusion of the trial work period.

Extended School Year (ESY): A term referred to school programs for children with disabilities that extend beyond 180 days, came into wide use in the 1980's with litigation to extend the school year for some children.

extension: Being very stiff, straightening of the trunks of extremities (arms and legs).

extraneous movement: Any irrelevant movement, such as unnecessary tapping of feet or fingers.

extrapyramidal syndrome: A variety of signs and symptoms, including muscular rigidity, tremors, drooling, shuffling gait (parkinsonism); restlessness (akathisia); and many other neurologic disturbances. Results from dysfunction of the extrapyramidal system. May occur as a reversible side effect of certain psychotropic drugs, especially phenothiazine.

extremities: The limbs of a person's body.

eye contact: "Looking him in the eye" while talking to the listener; generally a natural, although not a constant, interaction of the speaker's eyes with those of the listener. Varies according to a person's culture.

F

facilitate: To make easy or easier. As used in communication: The increased ease of performance of any action, resulting from the lessening of nerve resistance by the continued successive application of the necessary stimulus, i.e., hand over hand assistance.

fading: The gradual removal of discriminative stimuli such as cues and prompts. A technique used to teach children appropriate behaviors or skills.

failure to thrive (FTT): A chronic disorder of infancy and childhood characterized by growth failure, malnutrition and variable degrees of the delay in motor and social development. Possible causes of FTT are varied; illness, oral-motor feeding and swallowing disorders, inadequate food resources and problems with parent-child interaction.

familial: Occurring in members of the same family; said of certain diseases or disorders.

familial disease: Refers to an inherited disease or condition that runs in families.

familial dwarfism: An inherited form of dwarfism or arrested growth that results in overall smallness.

family: Primary nurturing care givers and others who assume major long-term roles in a child's daily life. Includes parents, siblings, relatives and significant others, including non-related persons in the household and those with significant impact on the child's and family's life.

family centered/focus model: Providing intervention services for children with special needs within the context of the family for the purpose of enhancing the child's developmental outcomes. It recognizes that the family is the constant in a child's life and that service systems and personnel must support, respect, encourage, and enhance the strength and competence of the family. Staff members and service providers must have the ability to concentrate or center on the needs of the family and those of the child, rather than the needs of an agency, program, or service system.

family counseling: Support to families in responding to the impact of a family member with special needs on family functions.

family development: The stages family members undergo throughout the family life cycle.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA): Federal regulations governing confidentiality of student records and parental rights of access and consent to release. Also known as the Student School Records Act.

family focus interview: Part of the comprehensive family assessment process in which an interview is conducted with interventionists and parents engaged in face-to-face discussions about needs and priorities for services.

family needs: Various family necessities: basic resources, specialized child care, personal and family growth items, financial and medical resources, child education, meal preparation, future child care, financial budgeting and household support.

family resources: Family wealth, assets, available money or property; also includes knowledge, contacts, abilities, etc. (things without intrinsic value).

family strengths: Characteristics that family members identify as contributing to the growth and development of the child and family. Among the areas of family life that many families identify as strengths are coping strategies, nurturing relationships, communication, religious or personal beliefs, family competence, and family/community interconnectedness.

family support programs/services: Services, supports, and other assistance to families in providing care for their children or adult members with developmental disabilities so they can remain in the home. These services are designed to (A) strengthen the family's role as primary caregiver, (B) prevent inappropriate out of the home placement and maintain family unity, and (C) reunite families with members who have been placed out of the home. These services include (but are not limited to) respite care, assistive technology, personal assistance, parent training and counseling, support for elderly parents, vehicular and home modifications, and assistance with extraordinary expenses associated with the needs of the person with a developmental disability.

family systems: The family as a unique, interactive social system whose characteristics reflect the region, economic status, ethnicity, and individual inclinations of its members.

family therapy: The therapeutic technique in which family members are seen together in order to improve family communication and create more satisfying interactions. Involves interactions with family members as well as with the individual or child.

family training: Instructional support in providing daily care specific to the special needs of the child and his/her developmental progress.

FAPE: See "free appropriate public education".

FAS: See "fetal alcohol syndrome".

fat: A food that supplies needed material both for body building and for energy.

FBR: See "Federal Benefit Rate".

FC: See "foster care".

febrile seizure: A seizure caused by a rapidly rising fever. Febrile seizures are brief, and do not necessarily indicate that a child has epilepsy.

Federal Benefit Rate (FBR): The maximum dollar amount allowed by Congress for monthly SSI benefits. This sum is determined annually.

federal mandate: An order by the federal government.

feble-minded: An outdated term appearing in early literature on mental retardation; roughly meaning "of weak mind".

feedback: The squeal from a hearing aid receiver that is produced when amplified sound from the receiver is picked up by the microphone and reamplified.

fenestration: Refers to the surgical creation of a new opening in the labyrinth of the ear to restore hearing.

FERPA: See "Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act".

fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS): A pattern of physical and mental birth defects that are the direct result of a mother drinking alcohol while pregnant. Clinical features include prenatal and postnatal growth deficiency, CNS dysfunction, a particular pattern of facial characteristics and major organ system malformations.

fetoscopy: A procedure for examining the unborn baby using a needlelike camera, which is inserted into the womb to videoscanner the fetus for visible abnormalities.

fibro-optic: A flexible light source that can be used to examine internal body organs.

field of vision: Refers to the breadth or degree of angle that a person can see without turning his or her head or moving the eyes: includes the limits of peripheral sight or that which lies to the sides of straight ahead.

figure-ground discrimination: The process of distinguishing an object from its background.

fine motor: The use of small muscle groups for controlled movements, particularly in object manipulation. Such as movements our hands make, how we hold onto things, move our fingers, etc.

fine motor development/skills: Development of precise and delicate abilities such as reaching, grasping, and the manipulation of small objects.

finger stick: Drawing blood from one's finger with one of several spring-loaded devices available for home use by diabetics.

fingerspelling: Use of a manual alphabet (26 handshapes and positions that represent the 26 letters of the written alphabet) to spell words. It is a form of sign language commonly used in both ASL and Signed English systems, for proper names and other terms for which there are no generally accepted signs.

fiscal year: A twelve-month accounting period. The federal government's fiscal year runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year.

fixation: In stuttering, the prolongation or maintenance of an articulatory or phonatory posture for a longer length of time than normal.

flexed (flexion): Inward bending of a joint, decreasing the angle; bending.

flight of ideas: A nearly continuous flow of accelerated speech with abrupt changes from topic to topic, usually based on understandable associations, distracting stimuli or plays on words. When severe, speech may be disorganized and incoherent. Flight of ideas is most frequently seen in manic episodes, but may also be observed in some cases of organic mental disorders, schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders and, occasionally, acute reactions to stress.

floppy: Having very low muscle tone (being like a rag doll).

fluency: The flow of a child's connected speech; dysfluency is also known as stuttering.

fluency disabilities: Speech problems where the natural flow and rhythm of speaking is excessively interrupted, often by frequent pauses, prolongation of sounds, repetitions, or unrelated sounds.

FM: See "frequency modulation".

FM amplification system: A system in which the teacher wears a microphone and an FM transmitter that broadcasts his/her voice to students who wear combination receivers and hearing aids.

focal motor seizures: Seizures that affect specific motor, sensory, and psychomotor functions and originates from a particular area of the brain that governs or controls various motor functions. Focal seizures usually show themselves as a jerking in a single limb or one side of the body.

follic acid: A vitamin needed for certain enzyme reactions. Its use may help prevent the development of spina bifida in high risk women.

food allergies: A reaction when a foreign body, such as a food substance, stimulates the immune system. The clinical signs include 1) respiratory; 2) gastro-intestinal; 3) cutaneous; and 4) neurologic.

food intolerances: Results from foods which are difficult to digest, e.g., foods high in fiber or fatty foods, or foods which cannot be metabolized due to an enzyme deficiency, e.g., lactose intolerance.

food textures: A term used by nutritionists specifying the consistency of food to be given. Solids include puree, junior ground, chopped fine, and regular. Liquids include thin, nectar, thick, and shakes. See the specific terms for further information.

forensic psychiatry: A branch of psychiatry dealing with legal issues related to mental disorders.

form constancy: The ability to recognize an object or shape, regardless of what position or angle it is viewed from.

form errors: Common language errors made by children with language problems in which they have difficulty understanding or using the rules of grammar. A child with this problem might say "We go pool" instead of "We went to the pool".

formal thought disorder: A disturbance in the form of thought as distinguished from the content. The boundaries of the concept are not clear and there is no consensus as to which disturbances in speech or thought are included. For this reason, "formal thought disorder" is not used as a descriptive term in DSM-III.

foster care (FC): Temporary care in a safe home environment for children who have been removed from their biological home by the Department of Social Services. Foster care also includes necessary medical and educational services.

fragile X syndrome: Chromosomal abnormality of the X chromosome, associated with mental retardation, hyperactivity, enlarged testes and rambling perseverative speech.

frames of reference: Usually derived from theory, and is specific to a discipline; provides a guide for action to a particular profession.

fraternal twins: Twins that develop from two fertilized eggs and develop in two placentas. Many times such twins do not resemble one another closely.

free appropriate public education (FAPE): A key requirement of the federal legislation, Public Law 94-142, which requires that special education and related services are provided to all eligible children, and meet the following requires: (a) Are provided at public expense, under public supervision and direction, and without charge; (b) Meet the standards of the state board of education and the laws pertaining thereto; (c) Include preschool, kindergarten, elementary school, and secondary school education; and (d) Are provided in conformity with an individualized educational program (IEP).

free-floating anxiety: Severe, generalized, persistent anxiety not specifically ascribed to a particular object or event and often a precursor of panic.

freedom of assembly and petition: A constitutional right you have as a citizen of the United States in which no one can keep you from meeting together with your friends or other people, or keep you from telling the government when something bothers you.

freedom of religion: A constitutional right you have as a citizen of the United States in which no one can keep you from worshipping or not worshipping however you want to.

freedom of speech: A constitutional right you have as a citizen of the United States in which no one can keep you from saying anything you want as long as it is the truth.

freedom of the press: A constitutional right you have as a citizen of the United States in which no one can keep you from writing and publishing anything you want so long as it is the truth.

Frejka pillow: A cushion used to spread an infant's legs in the treatment of congenital hip dislocation.

frequency modulation (FM): The system of radio broadcasting or transmission that uses varying frequencies of carrier waves in the air to transmit sound. Hearing aids and auditory trainers (FM systems) relay sound through the FM waves in the air.

FTT: See "failure to thrive".

functional: Represents a skill that is necessary for success in daily functioning, now or in the future.

functional academic curriculum: Curriculum that teaches academic material (reading, math, etc.) with content that is the most commonly relevant and necessary for a person's daily living. See also "functional life/compensatory curriculum".

functional activities: Activities used in treatment that relates to a specific function that has been lost and is being relearned or to a function that is being learned for the first time.

functional age: An individual's level of ability to perform various tasks relative to the average age of others who can perform the same tasks.

functional articulation disorders: Refers to articulation problems that are not due to structural defects or neurological problems, but are more likely the result of environmental or psychological influences.

functional communication: Refers to the skill and performance in using equipment or systems to enhance or provide communication such as writing equipment, computers, and augmentative communication systems.

functional life/compensatory curriculum: An instructional approach that teaches only those practical skills that facilitate a student's accommodation to society; for example, self-care, social skills, and occupational/vocational skills. See also "functional academic curriculum".

functional murmur: See "heart murmur".

FY: See "fiscal year".

G

gag reflex/response: 1. A response to tactile input presented to the back of the tongue or pharyngeal area composed of jaw extension, forward/downward tongue movement, and pharyngeal constriction with eye widening and head and neck extension; very strong at birth, reducing in strength by approximately 7 months of age; persists throughout adulthood. 2. Gagging and vomiting resulting from irritation of the back part of the tongue.

gain: The amount of amplification in a hearing aid; measured in decibels (dB).

gait: A particular pattern or style in which a person walks.

galactosemia: A metabolic disorder where an infant has difficulty processing lactose (or galactose, a sugar found in milk). High levels of galactose build up in the blood and tissues, causing liver and kidney disease, blindness, and mental retardation. Galactosemia is a genetic disease for which both parents must be carriers, and at the present time is unpreventable.

gastroesophageal reflux (GER): The return flow of stomach contents into the esophagus and, sometimes, into the pharynx, often due to incompetence of the lower esophageal sphincter (LES). Symptoms include excessive salivation, a burning sensation of pain and difficulty swallowing.

gastroesophageal reflux scan: A nuclear medicine study generally conducted over a two-hour period. The child is given a typical-sized feeding which contains a specifically calculated amount of radioisotope. Scanning is conducted for the first hour and during the last half hour. Information processed by the computer and interpreted by the radiologist includes that pertaining to the existence of gastroesophageal reflux and aspiration as well as the calculation of gastric emptying time.

gastrostomy tube (GT): A semi-permanent tube placed into the stomach for feeding purposes. These tubes are inserted surgically and require hospitalization.

genealogical: Refers to a record or account of a person's family and ancestry.

General Conservatorship/Guardianship: This type of Conservatorship/Guardianship gives the conservator/guardian the legal rights to manage all aspects of the individual(s) affairs.

generalization: The ability to apply a set of skills or knowledge learned under one set of conditions to other conditions or environments.

generic medications: Common names for medications. Generic medications are manufactured by companies who do not have to get FDA approval for selling the medication, and can thus usually sell the product cheaper than its "brand name" counterpart. Overall, generics are just as potent and safe as brand names, although with some medications, such as seizure medications, it is important not to switch from one manufacturer to another because many times the medications aren't absorbed from the stomach the same and the patient's blood levels can fluctuate.

genes: The parts of the chromosome that direct the way in which body tissue develops. For example, genes direct the shape of the nose and the color of the hair.

genetic counseling: A process of informing parents concerning decisions they have to make regarding having children; often done where there is some reason to believe that a genetic abnormality may result, or be present.

genetic counselor: A specially trained professional who counsels people considering having a child regarding their chances of producing a baby with a handicap based on their genetic history.

genetic screening: A search in a population for persons possessing certain genotypes (genes transmitted from parents to offspring) that are (1) already associated with disease or predisposed to disease, (2) may lead to disease in their descendants, or (3) produce other variations not known to be associated with disease.

geneticist: A person who studies the hereditary characteristics of families. Also referred to as a genetic specialist.

genogram: A visual representation of the life cycle of a family used as a means of understanding family relationships and changes.

genotypes: Genes transmitted from parents to offspring.

GER: See "gastroesophageal reflux".

German Measles: See "Rubella".

gestational age: The estimated age of a fetus expressed in weeks, calculated from the first day of the last normal menstrual period.

gestural systems: Ways of communicating by using natural gestures; behavior showing likes, dislikes, choices, and touch cues or tactile prompts.

gifted, creative, and talented: Terms applied to those with extraordinary abilities in one or more areas and capable of superior performance.

gingival hyperplasia: Excessive proliferation of gum tissue.

glaucoma: A disorder in the eye characterized by high pressure inside the eyeball.

glucose: A sugar.

glycosuria: An increased concentration of glucose in the urine.

goal: 1. Something we wish to accomplish, or get done. 2. Restatement of a problem in a way that suggests a solution. Does not need to be measurable.

grace period: A period of time (commonly 30-31 days) after premium-due date during which an insurance policy remains in force without penalty even though the premium due has not been paid.

grand mal seizure: Seizures that involve a sudden loss of consciousness followed immediately by a generalized convulsion.

grandiosity: An inflated appraisal of one's worth, power, knowledge, importance of identity. When extreme, grandiosity may be of delusional proportions. Example: A professor who often puts students to sleep with his boring lectures is convinced that he is one of the more dynamic and exciting teachers at the university.

granuloma: A tumor that occurs secondary to trauma such as that which may be caused by intubation. If a tube is forced through the glottis, the surrounding membranes of the vocal cords can become torn. The tissue can then become a large tumor which may cause aphonia, a voice disorder, and possible obstruction of breathing. These tumors must be surgically removed.

gravida: The number of times a woman has been pregnant.

gross motor: Movement that involves balance, coordination and large muscle activity as required in holding your head up, walking, running, skipping, climbing, jumping and other physical activities.

ground: A nutrition term used when describing dietary instructions. Table food processed in a grinder, food processor or blender (without water added). Often used in transition of texture for children not currently showing chewing abilities.

GT, or G tube: See "gastrostomy tube".

guaranteed renewable: A health insurance policy that specifies that the insurer will renew the policy until the insured reaches a specified age, if premium payments are made when due. (Premium rates are not guaranteed.)

guardian: A person appointed by a court who has the same legal responsibilities and prerogatives as a parent, but who may not be expected to have the person he is responsible for live in his home. In most jurisdictions, a person under guardianship (by reason of mental illness) is under the total control of another person or persons, in the status of a ward with respect to both his body (as in consenting to surgery) and fiscal or contractual affairs. See also "Conservatorship/Guardianship".

guidance counselor: An individual working in a school who is trained to do screening, evaluations, and career and academic advising.

guide-advocate: An advocate who functions much like a guardian, but unlike a guardian, he does so informally in situations where a legal definition of his role is not feasible or necessary in order to achieve the desired ends.

gyri: Convulsions (wrinkles/crevices) of the surface of the brain.

H

H/CBS: See "Home/Community Based Services".

habilitation: The process of making fit; often refers to training of new skills.

haemophilus B (HIB): A serious bacterial infection which can cause meningitis, ear infections, epiglottis (croup) and skin and soft tissue infections. Immunization with the HIB vaccine can protect infants and children from contracting this infection. Recommended immunizations should occur at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and 15 months of age.

hallucination: A sensory perception without external stimulation of the relevant sensory organ. A hallucination has the immediate sense of reality of a true perception, although in some instances the source of the hallucination may be perceived as within the body, such as an auditory hallucination experienced as coming from within the head rather than through the ears. Hallucinations should be distinguished from illusions, in which an external stimulus is misperceived or misinterpreted and from normal thought processes that are exceptionally vivid. Transient hallucinatory experiences are common in individuals without mental disorder. Types of hallucinations are: auditory, gustatory, mood-incongruent, olfactory, somatic, tactile, and visual.

Hamilton Trust: A special type of trust where assets not belonging to the beneficiary of the trust are placed in trust for the beneficiary's supplemental (not basic) support. The assets and income of a Hamilton Trust are not considered income or available resource for South Dakota SSI/Medicaid and other entitlement eligibility purposes.

handedness: Preferential use of either the right or left hand for activities such as writing, eating and drinking, throwing, etc.

handicap: 1. A limitation imposed on an individual by the environment and the person's capacity to cope with that limitation. 2. A term used to refer to any disability (physical, mental or emotional) which limits or threatens a person's development of full potential. 3. For legal or eligibility purposes, "handicapped" may be defined as: A "special population" of persons who have been evaluated as having mental retardation, being hard of hearing, deaf, speech or language impairments, visual impairments, serious emotional disturbance, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, or specific learning disabilities; who, because of their handicapping condition, require special education and related services (if a child) provided through an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), in order to succeed in a regular educational program. If an adult, other services or assistance may be available through a variety of other agencies. See also "disability".

handicapping condition: See "disabling condition" or "handicap".

haptic: Refers to touch sensation and information transmitted through body movement and/or position.

hard signs: A term used by neurologists to indicate that a child performs in an observably different way than the average child in certain central nervous system functions. These differences may be quantitative or qualitative. They may include the presence of inappropriate responses and/or the absence of appropriate responses.

hard-of-hearing: 1. A term used to categorize individuals with either permanent or fluctuating hearing impairments who can understand and communicate verbally with or without the use of hearing aids. 2. Having a hearing impairment which adversely affects a student's educational performance, but which is not included under the definition of "deaf". A person who is hard-of-hearing has enough hearing left for practical use. has a record of such an impairment: Referring to a person who has a history of, or has been misclassified as having, a mental or physical impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

HBA: See "health benefits advisor".

head circumference: Distance around the head when measured above the eyebrow and over the occipital protuberances.

Head Start: See "Project Head Start".

health: The optimal physical mental, social and spiritual well-being of a person.

health benefits advisor (HBA): Military bases employ HBAs to help beneficiaries with questions about benefits and claims filing.

health disorders: Conditions or diseases that interfere with an individual's functioning but do not necessarily or initially have an impact on their ability to move about independently in various settings.

health insurance: Insurance that pays specified benefits if the person who is insured becomes sick or is injured. Health insurance coverage includes both medical expenses coverage and disability income coverage.

Health Maintenance Organization (HMO): A group of doctors and other medical providers who provide services for a fixed yearly advance fee or premium payment. Members must rely exclusively on the HMO for all their medical needs.

health services: Instructional and access support to promote optimal health, growth and development.

hearing aid: An electronic instrument that amplifies sound waves for a person who has a hearing impairment.

hearing impaired: Any individual who has a hearing loss that requires special assistance (such as a hearing aid) or educational adaptation. This term includes both persons who are hard-of-hearing and who are deaf.

hearing impairment: Having a reduction in hearing that affects a person's educational, academic, and/or social performance. Hearing losses are classified by hearing sensitivity at various frequencies within the audible range. These frequencies are termed "decibels" or "dB". An individual is considered to have normal hearing if the hearing threshold is above the 25 dB range. Hearing losses are categorized as follows: Mild - hearing within the 25 to 40 dB range; Moderate - within the 40 to 55 dB range; Moderately Severe - within the 55 and 70 dB range; Severe - within the 70 to 90 dB range; and Profound or Deafness - exceeding 90 dB range. See also "hearing impaired".

heart attack: A sudden inability of the heart to function properly.

heart murmur: A sound made by the action of the heart when the valves between the heart chambers do not close completely. Functional heart murmurs are not harmful in any manner. Organic heart murmurs indicate serious problems.

hebephrenic schizophrenia: See "disorganized schizophrenia".

heir: The person who inherits property under state law.

hematocrit: A test that measures the percentage of red blood cells in whole blood (normally 35%-40%). A sample of blood is spun around in a centrifuge so that the red cells fall to the bottom of the sample. It is done to determine iron status in the blood.

hemiplegia: Paralysis that involves one side of the body in a lateral fashion.

hemoglobin: 1. A part of the red blood cell that contains iron which enables the red cell to carry oxygen. 2. A blood test which measures the amount of hemoglobin in a blood sample to test for anemia.

hemophilia: An inherited condition affecting males, in which the blood plasma contains an insufficient quantity of the factor needed to clot blood.

hereditary: Refers to a disease or condition that is passed from parents to child.

hertz (Hz): A unit used to measure the frequency of sound in terms of the number of cycles that vibrating molecules complete per second.

heterozygote: A carrier of a recessive genetic disorder.

HI: See "Hospital Insurance".

HIB: See "Haemophilis B".

high frequency deafness: Loss of hearing acuity for high frequencies; may be associated with sensorineural damage (inner ear).

high risk register: Any set of criteria consisting of several factors that are related to greater prevalence of hearing impairment. This is used to identify neonates/infants that require further hearing screening/assessment.

high technology: State-of-the-art computer, microelectronic, hydraulic, pneumatic, laser, nuclear, chemical, telecommunication, and other technologies being used to enhance productivity in manufacturing, communication, transportation, agriculture, mining energy, commercial, and similar economic activity, and to improve the provision of health care.

High Tone Hypertonic: Having stiff, rigid, or inflexible muscles.

histamines: Substances transmitted in a number of fashions (such as foods and odors), which cause a constriction or swelling of bronchial muscles.

histrionic personality disorder: Excitability, emotional instability, overactivity and attention-seeking and often seductive self-dramatization, whether or not the person is aware of its purpose. People with this disorder are immature, self-centered, vain and unusually dependent. Sometimes referred to as hysterical personality.

HIV: See "Human Immunodeficiency Virus".

HMD: See "hyaline membrane disease".

HMO: See "Health Maintenance Organization".

home visits: See "home-based services".

home and center-based services: Providing services in a manner in which some activities occur in the home of the recipient, while others may be provided in a facility setting.

home-based services: Where a teacher, counselor, consultant, or therapist goes to individual homes (or other comfortable setting, i.e., daycare center) on a regular basis to provide a needed service. All activities take place in the home and individuals have exclusive time with that teacher or other professional while he or she is there. Home visits provide support to families in facilitating their ability to enhance the child's environment. They usually last about an hour and can occur as frequently as every day or as infrequently as once a month, depending on the size of the staff, the number of families served, and how far the staff must travel to reach all the families.

Home/Community Based Services (H/CBS): Funding source for people with developmental disabilities who need 24-hour services. Authorized out of the Division of Developmental Disabilities, in South Dakota.

homemaker: An individual who is an adult and has worked as an adult primarily without remuneration (payment) to care for the home and family, and for that reason has diminished marketable skills.

homeostasis: Equilibrium of fluid, chemical, and temperature in the body.

hormone: An internally secreted compound formed in endocrine organs.

Hospital Insurance (HI): A health insurance program under Medicaid.

HR: House of Representatives.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV): A virus that reduces the immune-system functioning in affected individuals and has been linked to AIDS.

human rights: Rights of a citizen of the United States that deal with the following rights: life, choice, freedom of movement, religious choice, to live in the community, medical care, and to pursue happiness.

hyaline membrane disease (HMD): When lungs are less compliant and fatigue occurs as a result of attempting to ventilate "stiff lungs". Due to immaturity of preterm infant's lungs and the absence, alteration, or inactivation of surface-active material (surfactant). Also referred to as "respiratory distress syndrome" (RDS).

hydrocephalus: An excess of cerebrospinal fluid (surround the brain or in the cavities between the four ventricles), often resulting in enlargement of the head with pressure on the brain, which may cause mental retardation, convulsions, and/or visual impairments.

hyperactivity: Constant and excessive movement and motor activity. Hyperactivity is a feature of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, autism, toxic reactions, etc. See also "hyperkinetic" and "hyperkinesis".

hyperbilirubinemia: An excess of bilirubin in the blood.

hyperglycemia: An increased concentration of glucose in the blood.

hyperkinesis: Constant and excessive movement and motor activity. See also "hyperkinetic" and "hyperactivity".

hyperkinetic: Refers to an excess of behavior in inappropriate circumstances. See also "hyperactivity" and "hyperkinesis".

hypermedia: An approach to use computers and audio/visual technology to mimic the way the brain works and; therefore, have a greater effect on how an individual learns. Hypermedia enhances a child's ability to explore and "experience" more of the world through a computer, offers information needed for them to make sense out of their world, and builds on their levels of understanding. It attempts to involve as many senses as possible, thus making the child the leader of the learning experience.

hypernasality: A voice resonance disorder that occurs when excessive air passes through the nasal cavity, often resulting in an unpleasant twanging sound.

hyperopia: Farsightedness or poor vision at a close range. A refractive problem wherein the eyeball is excessively short, focusing light rays behind the retina.

hypertelorism: Widely spaced eyes.

hypertonia: High muscle tone (stiff muscles).

hypochondriasis: Unrealistic interpretation of physical signs or sensations as abnormal, leading to preoccupation with the fear or belief of having a disease.

hypoglycemia: A condition characterized by an abnormal decrease of sugar in the blood.

hypokinesia: The absence of a normal amount of bodily movement and motor activity. Extreme lack of movement or listlessness.

hyponasality: A voice disorder involving resonance, where too little air passes through the nasal cavity; denasality.

hypoplasia: Defective or incomplete development of any tissue. Lingual hypoplasia: Incomplete development of the tongue. Mandibular hypoplasia; Micrognathia or unusually small lower jaw, usually accompanied by recession of the chin.

hypothyroidism: See "congenital hypothyroidism".

hypotonia: 1. Low, or poor muscle tone (floppy muscles). 2. Damage to any part of the brain, usually including the cerebellum and basal ganglia, resulting in decreased stiffness of the extremities and trunk.

hypoxia: Reduction of oxygen content in body tissues.

hysterical deafness: Psychogenic deafness. A person with psychogenic deafness has no physical or physiological basis for the hearing loss.

Hz: See hertz.

I

I & R: Information and Referral.

ICFMR: See "Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded".

Id: A term, based on psychoanalytic theory, that refers to the drives component of one's subconscious.

ID cards: Identification cards issued by the uniformed services and the Veterans Administration showing a person is eligible for CHAMPUS and other benefits.

IDEA: See "Individuals with Disabilities Education Act".

idea of reference: An idea, held less firmly than a delusion, that events, objects or other people in the person's immediate environment have a particular and unusual meaning specifically for him. See also delusion of reference.

idealization: A mechanism in which a person attributes exaggerated positive qualities to self or others.

identical twins: Twins that develop from a simple fertilized egg in a single placental sack. Such twins are the same sex and usually resemble one another closely.

identification: The process of locating and identifying children needing special services.

identity: The sense of self, providing a unity of personality over time. Prominent disturbances in identity or the sense of self are seen in schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder and identity disorder.

identity disorder: Severe subjective distress caused by an adolescent's inability to achieve an integrated sense of self. See "identity".

IEP: See "Individualized Education Program".

IEP goals and objectives: The long and short-term behaviors that are the targets of special education or therapeutic intervention. IEP objectives are almost always written in behavioral terms.

IFSP: See "Individualized Family Service Plan".

IFSP outcomes: Statements of the changes families want to see for their children or themselves.

IHP: See "Individual Habilitation Plan".

illogical thinking: Thinking that contains clear internal contradictions or in which conclusions are reached that are clearly inaccurate. It may be seen in individuals without mental disorder, particularly when they are distracted or fatigued. Illogical thinking has psychopathological significance only when it is routinely evident (marked), and when it is not due to cultural or religious values or to intellectual deficit. Markedly illogical thinking may lead to or result from a delusional belief, or may be observed in the absence of a delusion.

illusion: A misperception of a real external stimulus. Examples: The rustling of leaves is heard as the sound of voices; a man claims that when he looks in a mirror, he sees his face distorted and misshapen. See also hallucination.

imitate: To copy what someone else does or says.

immaturity: Pertaining to behavior disorders, a category involving preoccupation, short attention span, passivity, daydreaming, sluggishness, and other behavior not in accord with developmental expectations.

immediate family member: Spouse, children, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother, sister, stepchildren, and/or stepparents of a person.

immittance audiometry: Tympanometry and acoustic reflex measurement.

immune system: The normally functioning system within a person's body that protects from disease.

immunizations: Vaccines which have been developed to protect children from childhood diseases such as DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, PERTUSSIS, POLIO, MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA, and HAEMOPHILLIS B DISEASE. Children should receive immunizations at specific times from birth to age 2. See "DTP", "OPV", "MMR", and "HIB" for immunization schedules and diseases covered by each vaccine.

immunosuppressive drugs: Medication that discourages the body from rejecting implanted organs.

immunosuppression syndromes/diseases: A group of conditions in which there is an increased chance of infection. When infections do occur, they result in severe, acute, recurrent and chronic disease. These conditions result from defects in the immune system. Some defects are caused genetically; some occur secondary to other diseases or conditions while others are congenital in nature.

impairment: Something that someone lacks - it can be mental, visual, hearing, or weakness in an arm. An impairment can either be acquired during the course of a lifetime, or congenital (born with).

Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE): This is a work incentive for SSI and SSDI beneficiaries that allows exclusion of certain expenses in calculating the SSI benefit level for determining if the person's work is substantial. Provides that the cost to the individual for certain items and services needed to work, even though also needed for normal daily activities, (e.g., attendant care services, medical devices, etc.) can be deducted from earnings in determining if the the individual demonstrates the ability to engage in substantial gainful activity. It also provides that these same impairment-related work expenses can be deducted, under certain circumstances, from earned income to determine an SSI recipient's countable earned income.

implementation: The actual attempt to execute the plan of treatment subsequent to the assessment.

impulsivity: Acting or speaking too quickly (upon impulse) without first thinking of the consequences.

in utero: A term pertaining to child development in the uterus, or before birth; may refer to abnormalities or accidents that occur during this fetal developmental period, such as in utero infection.

in-kind contributions: A fair value estimate of facilities, overhead, personnel, and equipment "donated" or "shared" between agencies to show collaboration. Is generally used when determining budgets for grant applications to show collaboration among 2 or more agencies or projects.

in-service training: Educational training for vocational education teachers, counselors, administrators, and supervisors to enable them to increase skills and knowledge related to jobs in which they are presently employed.

in-the-canal hearing aid (ITC): See "in-the-ear hearing aid".

in-the-ear hearing aid (ITE): A hearing aid that fits entirely in the concha of the ear.

incidence: The number of new cases of a condition that have been identified within a specific period of time (e.g., one year).

incidental teaching: Teaching while the child is playing.

include, such as: Not all the possible items are covered; whether like or unlike the ones named.

incoherence: Speech that is largely not understandable, due to any of the following: lack of a logical or meaningful connection between words, phrases or sentences; excessive use of incomplete sentences; excessive irrelevancies or abrupt changes in subject matter; idiosyncratic word usage; distorted grammar. Mildly ungrammatical constructions or idiomatic usages characteristic of particular regional or ethnic backgrounds, lack of education, or low intelligence should not be considered incoherence; and the term is generally not applied when there is evidence that the speech disturbance is due to an aphasia. Incoherence may be seen in some organic mental disorders, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

income: As defined for SSI eligibility, the money you have coming in such as earnings, Social Security checks, and pensions. Also includes non-cash items such as food, clothing, or shelter. Or...cash, checks, and other things you get that can be used for food, clothing, or shelter.

income beneficiary: Generally, the person in the trust agreement who will receive the income from the trust during his or her lifetime.

incompetency: 1. Without adequate ability, knowledge, fitness, etc.; failing to meet requirements; incapable unskillful. 2. Not legally qualified. Often used globally to denote lack of capacity to legally consent to or make a contract.

independence: The extent to which persons with developmental disabilities exert control and choice over their own lives.

Individual Habilitation Plan (IHP): Training and service plan developed for a person who is served in an Adjustment Training Center.

individual labeling approach: Labeling that occurs when an individual imposes a label on himself or herself.

individual supports: Services, supports, and other assistance that enable persons with developmental disabilities to be independent, productive, and integrated into their communities, and that are designed to: (A) enable the person to control his or her environment, permitting the most independent life possible, (B) prevent placement into a more restrictive living arrangement than is necessary, and (C) enable the person to live, learn, work and enjoy life in the community. Individual supports include personal assistance services, assistive technology, vehicular and home modifications, support at work, and transportation.

Individualized Educational Program (IEP): A written education plan for a school-aged child with disabilities developed by a team of professionals (teachers, therapists, etc.) and the child's parents. IEP's are based on a multidisciplinary evaluation of the child, describes how the child is presently doing, what the child's learning needs are, and what services the child will need. They are reviewed and updated yearly. IEP's are required under Public Law 94-142, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). For children ages birth through 2 years, an IFSP is written.

Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP): A plan of intervention for an eligible child (age birth through 2) and his/her family, similar in content to the IEP, which has been developed by a team of people who have worked with the child and family. IFSP's must contain: statements regarding the child's present development level, strengths, and needs; the family's strengths and needs; major outcomes of the plan, a description of the specific interventions and delivery systems to accomplish outcomes, statement of natural environments, name of service coordinator, dates of initiation and duration of services, dates for evaluation of the plan, and a transition plan.

Individualized Language Plan (ILP): A language-training program tailored to an individual's needs in terms of strengths and limitations.

Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program (IWRP): Written document completed by client and counselor that delineates services and responsibilities.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): New title for Education of the Handicapped Act, mandating that states and local divisions provide special education for children with disabilities.

industrial deafness: Loss of hearing sensitivity as a result of relatively long exposure to industrial noise.

industrial technology: A comprehensive educational process designed to develop a population that is knowledgeable about technology, its evolution, systems, techniques, utilization in industry and other fields and (its) social and cultural significance. It is offered through a series of courses which reflect the various system categories of industrial technology, (i.e., communications, construction, manufacturing, transportation).

infant/developmental stimulation: Early intervention procedures that emphasize providing an infant with an array of visual, auditory, and physical stimuli to promote development. Infant stimulation provides for changes in the structure, thought, or behavior of an infant or person that occurs as a function of both biological and environmental influences (which may be quantitative or qualitative).

infantile: Relating to or characteristic of infants or infancy.

infantile perseveration: The articulation part of delayed speech where a youngster relies on speech as his or her main means of communication and attempts words, phrases, and sentences, but does so immaturely because of sound omissions and substitutions.

infantile psychosis: A disorder of early childhood manifested by impaired contact with reality, absence of meaningful verbal communication, withdrawal from social interactions, and unevenness between mental and emotional functioning, as well as a disparity among motor, visual, social and adaptive behavior. See also "autism".

infantile spasms: Seizures that infants (three months to two years of age) experience, characterized by flexor spasms of the arms, legs, and head. Also known as jackknife seizures.

information processing: A model used to study the way people acquire, remember, and manipulate information.

informed consent: Permission to perform a medical or research procedure, including a rational understanding (1) of the nature of the proceedings; (2) of the foreseeable risks; (3) of the expected benefits; (4) of the consequences of withholding consent; (5) of available alternative procedures; and (6) that consent is voluntary.

inpatient: Psychiatric services in a residential, often hospital setting.

insomnia: Difficulty falling or staying asleep. Initial insomnia is difficulty in falling asleep. Middle insomnia involves an awakening, followed by difficulty returning to sleep, but eventually doing so. Terminal insomnia is awakening at least two hours before one's usual waking time and being unable to return to sleep.

institution: An establishment or facility governed by a collection of fundamental rules.

institution of postsecondary education: A college or trade school that provides education to students beyond the secondary (high school) school level.

instrumental (guide) advocacy: Meeting a person's needs for practical problem-solving, as in the provision of practical advice and assistance in regard to transportation, clothing, voting, shopping, housing, church attendance, personal growth and the administration of property and income.

insulin: The hormone required by the body for proper utilization of carbohydrates. Diabetics, who lack insulin, can be given insulin by injection. Insulin is manufactured by the pancreas, and it assists the body by allowing glucose to enter cells.

insulin infusion pump: Battery-operated devices that dispense insulin to diabetic patients on a continuous basis.

insulin shock: A situation in which a diabetic receives too much insulin and then uses up all available carbohydrates. Insulin shock may be associated with seizures.

integration: 1. The process, to the fullest extent possible, of providing all educational services for a child with handicaps within general education settings. The integration is achieved through consistent ongoing involvement of children with handicaps and with their nonhandicapped peers. 2. For persons with disabilities, integration is simply living, learning, working, and enjoying life in regular contact with citizens without disabilities in their home communities. This could involve using the same community resources, participating in the same activities and employment, living in neighborhoods with persons without disabilities, and developing friendships and relationships with persons without disabilities.

intellectualization: A mechanism in which a person engages in excessive abstract thinking to avoid experiencing disturbing feelings.

intelligence quotient (IQ): A score obtained from an intelligence test that provides a measure of mental ability in relation to age.

intelligibility: The degree to which speech can be understood.

interaction: How interested a person or child is with things or people around him or her, and how they play or interact with the objects and people in their environment.

interdisciplinary team: A team whose members come from multiple disciplines, who interact and rely on the others for information and suggestions.

interdisciplinary: Involving 2 or more academic, scientific or artistic disciplines.

interindividual: Refers to comparisons of an individual's performance with that of others.

Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICFMR):

Funding source for people with developmental disabilities who have significant medical training and/or service needs and require 24-hour services in a certified facility.

intervention: Action taken to correct, remediate, or prevent identified or potential medical or developmental problems.

Intervivos Trust: A living trust. It functions during the lifetime of the Grantor.

intonation: The melodic pattern of a person's speech.

intoxication: Refers to an excessive level of some toxic agent in the mother-fetus system, which may cause cerebral damage.

intracerebral: Within the brain.

intracranial: Within the skull.

intraindividual: Refers to comparisons of an individual's different areas of performance.

intrauterine growth retardation (IUGR): Failure of the fetus to grow sufficiently within known parameters and expectations. Fetal head size, as measured by ultrasound, is one method used to monitor fetal growth rate and differentially detect patterns of growth retardation. Fetal growth patterns are influenced by the inherent growth potential of the fetus and the growth support received by way of the placenta from the mother.

intravenous: The administration of medication directly into a vein.

intraventricular: Within the ventricle of the brain.

intraventricular hemorrhage: Blood hemorrhage within the brain of a newborn infant. It is the most frequent cause of neurologic damage to a premature infant. There is an approximate 40 to 50 percent incidence rate among babies born before 35 weeks gestation. The advent of the CT scan has allowed for a grading system to determine the severity (Grades 0 - IV).

introspection: Looking into oneself to analyze experiences.

intubation: The insertion of a tube through the nose or mouth into the trachea to provide artificial ventilation.

IQ: See "intelligence quotient".

iris: The colored portion of the eye.

irrevocable trust: An irrevocable trust means that the items placed in the trust cannot be taken out of the trust except by ending the trust and disbursing the items to the appropriate remainderman. This trust will have its own tax number and be taxed as a separate "person". It will also file an annual report. The trustee does have the right to manage the trust funds by normal prudent man rules of investment, etc.

irritable mood: Internalized feeling of tension associated with being easily annoyed and provoked to anger.

IRWE: See "Impairment Related Work Expense".

isolation: A mechanism in which a person is unable to experience simultaneously the cognitive (thinking) and affective (feeling) components of an experience because the affect is kept from consciousness.

itinerant teacher: 1. A teacher who moves about a school district to several schools or several school districts and schedules children for teaching periods. Children usually leave their regular classrooms to work with the itinerant teacher. 2. A teacher who regularly visits a student who is unable to attend school (for whatever reasons) in his or her home or in a hospital setting to provide tutorial instruction.

IUGR: See "intrauterine growth retardation".

IWRP: See "Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program".

J

jargon: The language professionals use that no one can understand.

jaundice: A yellowish tinge or color of the skin, usually caused by problems in the liver. Characterized by hyperbilirubinemia and deposition of bile pigment in the skin and mucous membranes with resulting yellow appearance of the patient (usually infants/newborns).

jaw stabilization: Active, internal jaw control with minimal up/down jaw movements especially significant in cup drinking; initially obtained by biting on the cup rim at about 12 to 15 months of age; gradually develops using active jaw musculature by 24 months of age.

jaw thrusting: The abnormally strong depression of the lower jaw with a greater extent and force than seen in normal suckling; the jaw may become stuck in an open position; reinforces abnormal head and neck hyperextension, and causes feeding problems.

jaw thrusting with retraction: The abnormally strong depression with backward movement of the lower jaw; initially seen in conjunction with abnormal head and neck hyperextension and tongue retraction.

jaw thrusting with protrusion: The abnormally strong depression with forward pushing of the lower jaw; often seen initially with attempts to close an unstable jaw which opened using thrusting with retraction; occurs as a compensatory jaw movement.

job coaching: On the job training provided by a job coach trained in the specific job.

job preparatory programs: Job preparatory instruction in the minimum competencies necessary for effective entry into an occupation, including diversified cooperative education, work experience, and job entry programs which coordinate directed study and on-the-job training.

Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA): Public Law 97-300, establishes programs to prepare unskilled adults and youth for entry into the labor force and provides job training assistance programs for economically disadvantaged individuals and others facing serious barriers to employment, who are in special need of such training to obtain productive employment.

JTPA: See "Job Training Partnership Act".

judge advocate: The legal officer at a military base who is responsible for collecting CHAMPUS money in third-party liability cases, e.g., auto accident insurance payments.

junior: A nutrition term used when describing dietary instructions. Semi-solid consistency of food with high water content and low calorie density. No lumps, jar baby food can substitute. Examples: applesauce or baby chicken stirred well. This is a step up from liquids towards solids.

juvenile: Pertaining to or denoting youth, childhood, immaturity.

juvenile papilloma: This is the most common childhood disease of the larynx, and is also considered a voice disorder. Wart-like growths, which may be viral in origin, can grow on the true vocal cords or elsewhere in the airway, and they must be surgically removed if they interfere with breathing or voice production.

juvenile rheumatoid arthritis: A childhood viral disease characterized by inflammation and swelling of joint structures.

K

kernicterus: The deposition of bilirubin in the brain. This may cause damage to the basal ganglia and hippocampus. The associated diagnosis with kernicterus is athetoid cerebral palsy.

ketoacidosis: A diabetic condition that results in dehydration, vomiting, drowsiness, labored breathing, and frequent urination.

kinesthetic: Pertaining to sensations derived from muscles or movement. The kinesthetic system interprets the excursion and direction of joint movement.

Kurzweil reading machine: A reading device for people who are blind that converts printed matter into synthetic speech.

L

labeling: The process of naming a category of exceptionality.

Landau reflux: An infantile, automatic posture in which the head and trunk extend when the baby is held in a prone position with the examiner's hands under the trunk.

language: The content (word meaning, word order, etc.) of what a person says and understands. 1. Knowledge of a code for representing ideas about the world through a conventional system of arbitrary signals for communication. (What it really means is: These symbols (written, spoken, or signed) allow people to communicate thoughts to each other, to identify their innermost feelings, to aid in solving personal problems and to explore the world beyond their sight and current time frame. Language is considered by many to be the singularly most important tool for obtaining knowledge and skills in our society. 2. A code made up of a group of rules that include: what words mean, how to make new words (friend, friendly, unfriendly), how to combine words together ("Peg walked to the new store", not "Peg walk store new"), and what word combinations are best in what situations ("Would you mind moving your foot?" could quickly change to "Get off my foot, please!" if the first request got no results). When a person cannot understand the language code, then there is a receptive problem. If a person does not know enough language rules to share thoughts, ideas, and feelings completely, then there is an expressive problem. One problem can exist without the other, but often they occur together in both children and adults.

language delay: A term used when the normal rate of language development is interrupted, but the developmental sequence remains intact.

language development: Growth of expressive and receptive communication. Also includes the development of skills related to understanding and production of language.

language disorder: A term used when the sequence of language development is seriously disrupted.

lapse: Termination of an insurance policy due to non-payment of renewal premiums.

large for gestational age (LGA): When the weight of a newborn is greater than the 90th percentile acceptable norms for the particular gestational age.

laryngeal: Pertaining to the larynx.

laryngeal webbing: When a membrane grows between the true vocal cords. It's presence results in a voice disorder that not only affects phonation, but can cause a blockage of the airway. These people experience shortness of breath and a higher-pitched than usual voice with some hoarseness. These webs must be surgically removed, followed by subsequent voice therapy.

larynx: The portion of the throat that contains the vocal mechanism.

laser cane: A mobility device for people who are blind that converts infrared light into sound as light beams strike objects.

latent schizophrenia: Having clear symptoms of schizophrenia, but no history of psychotic schizophrenic episodes. Sometimes designated as incipient, prepsychotic, pseudoneurotic, pseudopsychopathic or borderline schizophrenia.

laterality: 1. Involves the awareness of the two sides of one's body and the ability to identify them as left or right correctly. 2. To use a preferred unilateral body part for activities requiring a high level of skill.

LCSW: See "Licensed Clinical Social Worker".

LD: See "learning disability".

LEA: See "local educational agency".

lead agency: The agency (office) within a state or territory in charge of overseeing and coordinating early childhood programs and services.

learning disability (LD): A disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations. The term includes, but is not limited to conditions such as perceptual handicaps, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. The term does not include children who have learning problems which are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor handicaps; mental retardation; emotional disturbance; or environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantages.

learning set: Refers to learning how to learn and the ability to apply what is learned to new experiences.

least restrictive alternative: See "least restrictive environment".

least restrictive environment (LRE): 1. The most "normal" environment possible for instruction, treatment, and/or living. 2. An educational setting or program that provides a student with disabilities the chance to work and learn to the best of his or her ability; it also provides the student with as much contact as possible with children without disabilities, while meeting all the child's learning needs and physical requirements. (In some instances, placement in a least restrictive environment can be "more restrictive" for that child, i.e., if only one deaf child and interpreter are using signing as the means of communication for that child, that situation can be a most restrictive environment.) 3. As defined in special education rules: A learning environment for a child in need of special education or private education and related services, including a child placed in a public or private institution or another care facility, that includes to the maximum extent appropriate children who are not in need of special education or special education and related services, as determined through the child's individual educational program.

legal advocacy: Litigating and legislating to establish the legal rights of developmentally disabled persons and to insure that those rights are not violated. This form of advocacy may be used to benefit individuals or classes of people.

legal rights: Rights which are given to citizens of the United States because of specific laws which have been passed. These laws clarify how many of your human and civil rights are to be protected.

legally blind: It refers to a person having less than 20/200 vision in the better eye (with correction) or a very limited field of vision (peripheral or tunnel vision) of 20 degrees or less. To have vision of 20/200 means that the person sees at twenty feet what a person with good vision sees at two hundred feet. This term is used in the educational context to describe students with visual impairments.

length: Measurement. Distance from the crown of the head to the bottom of the feet when a person is lying down on their back.

lens: The clear structure in the eye that focuses light rays on the retina.

LES: See "lower esophageal sphincter".

lesion: Injury or loss of function.

Letter of Intent: This is one of the most important documents of an estate plan. In this very personal letter, parents will express their hopes and desires for their child's future care.

leukemia: A condition in which there is an abnormal increase in the number of white blood cells present in the blood. Also known as cancer of the blood, its primary impact is on the blood-forming organs.

LGA: See "large for gestational age".

liability insurance: A kind of insurance which provides a benefit payable on behalf of a covered party who is held legally responsible (liable) for harming others or their property.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW): Certification by a state as a licensed clinical social worker. Such licensure often requires at least two years experience with a direct client caseload under supervision. See also "Association of Certified Social Worker (ACSW)" and "Registered Clinical Social Worker (RCSW)".

life cycle/family cycle: The sequence of developmental and non developmental changes that affect families. These changes alter family characteristics and family functions. These changes, in turn, influence how the family interacts.

life insurance: A type of insurance which provides a sum of money if the person who is insured dies while the policy is in effect.

limited English proficiency: Students who: 1) were not born in the United States, or whose native language is a language other than English; 2) come from environments where a language other than English is dominant; 3) are American Indian or Alaskan Native and who come from environments where a language other than English has had a significant impact on their level of English-language proficiency; and by reason thereof, have sufficient difficulty speaking, reading, writing or understanding the English language as to deny such individuals the opportunity to learn successfully in classrooms where the language of instruction is English or to participate fully in our society.

limited or partial Conservatorship/Guardianship: This type of Conservatorship/Guardianship generally applies to the developmentally disabled and restricts the areas in which the Conservator/Guardian may act on behalf of the individual.
line-21 system: See "client-caption".

linear seating: The use of flat planes or surfaces (rather than contoured) to support a child. Also referred to as "planar seating".

linkages: The connection between the individual/family with external resources and supports.

lip pursing: A purse-string positioning of the lips and cheeks; the cheeks and lip corners are slightly retracted for abnormal stability while the central portions of the lips are semi-protruded and appear to be puckering.

lip reading: Same as speech reading. See speech reading for definition.

lip retraction: An abnormal feeding pattern depicted by lips drawing back. Does not bring lips together to remove food from a spoon or draw liquid out of a cup.

lissencephaly: An abnormality of the brain in which few gyri (wrinkles/crevices) are formed. This is associated with some forms of mental retardation.

listening response: Response to auditory stimuli typically noted between 4 and 12 months of age characterized by attempts to locate sound source by turning head and/or searching with the eyes.

local education agency (LEA): A school district, board of education, or other public authority under the supervision of a state educational agency having administrative control and direction of public elementary or secondary schools in a city, county, township, school district, or political subdivision in a state, or any other public educational institution or agency having administrative control and direction of a vocational education program.

localization response: A head turn toward the source of a sound typically presented in sound field test procedures (testing booths).

lockjaw: See "tetanus".

locu ceruleus: An area of the brain involved in attention.

loosening of associations: Thinking characterized by speech in which ideas shift from one subject to another that is completely unrelated or only obliquely related, without the speaker's showing any awareness that the topics are unconnected. Statements that lack a meaningful relationship may be juxtaposed, or the individual may shift idiosyncratically from one frame of reference to another. When loosening of associations is severe, speech may be incoherent. The term is generally not applied when abrupt shifts in topics are associated with a nearly continuous flow of accelerated speech (as in flight of ideas). Loosening of associations may be seen in schizophrenia, manic episodes, and other psychotic disorders.

low birth weight: A term applied to babies that weight 5 1/2 pounds (2,500 grams) or less at birth. Low birth weight infants are of two different types: those who are born too small because they are born too soon, and those who are born on time, but are too small for their gestational age.

low tone deafness: Low frequency hearing loss; inability to hear low notes or frequencies.

low tone hypotonic: Having poor muscle tone, appearing floppy.

low vision: A term used in the educational context to describe students with visual impairments. It refers to a severe visual impairment, not necessarily limited to distance vision. Low vision applies to all individuals with sight who are unable to read the newspaper at a normal viewing distance, even with the aid of eyeglasses or contact lenses. They use a combination of vision and other senses to learn, although they may require adaptations in lighting or the size of print, and sometimes, braille.

low-vision specialist: An ophthalmologist or optometrist trained to give examinations and training in the use of vision.

lower esophageal sphincter (LES): A ring-like muscle that closes off the passage of food through the lower part of the tube (esophagus) that connects the throat (pharynx) to the stomach.

LPA: Let's Prevent Abuse.

LRE: See "least restrictive environment".

lymphocyte: A type of white blood cell.

lymphoma: A type of blood-related cancer that is localized in lymph nodes.

M

MA: See "Medical Assistance".

macrocephaly: An abnormally large head.

magical thinking: The individual believes that his thoughts, words or actions might cause or prevent a specific outcome in some way that defies the normal laws of cause and effect. Example: A man believed that if he said a specific prayer three times each night, his mother's death might be prevented indefinitely, a mother believed that if she had an angry thought her child would become ill. Magical thinking may be part of ideas of reference or may reach delusional proportions when the individual maintains a firm conviction about the belief, despite evidence to the contrary. Magical thinking is seen in children, in people of primitive cultures and in schizotypal personality disorder, schizophrenia and obsessive compulsive disorder.

mainstream: The usual educational placement of a child. To mainstream a child is to place him in a regular class or something approaching it, rather than in a self-contained special class. See also "mainstreaming".

mainstream/no support program: A vocational program that is conducted in an integrated setting, i.e., students having special needs together with students not having special needs and where no additional Vocational Education Act (VEA) funds are provided to assist the student with special needs.

mainstream/support program: A vocational program that is conducted in an integrated setting, i.e., students having special needs together with students not having special needs and where added support services are provided by Vocational Education Act (VEA) funds to assist the student with special needs. Refer to local or state funds used to match federal funds.

mainstreaming: The process of integrating children with disabilities into regular educational or social programs, implementing the least restrictive environment concept.

major depressive episode: A mood disorder with a depressed mood that may accompany a manic episode.

major life activities: Functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.

major medical policy: A medical expense policy which provides broad coverage both for hospital expenses and outpatient expenses. Major medical policies have few limitations and high maximum benefit amounts.

malignant: Refers to a tumor or growth that destroys other tissue as it grows. Usually means that the tumor or growth is cancerous.

malnutrition: A condition of a child's body resulting from an inadequate or excessive intake of one or more nutrients.

malocclusion: Refers to an abnormal fit of the upper and lower dental structures.

managed care: Any organized effort to contain or reduce the cost of health care.

mandate: An authoritative order or command, especially a written one.

manic: A type of bipolar disorder that is characterized by excitement, euphoria, expansive or irritable mood, hyperactivity, pressured speech, flight of ideas, decreased need for sleep, distractibility and impaired judgement. Delusions consistent with elation and grandiosity may be present.

manipulation: How a person uses his/her hands with objects, such as writing or drawing with a crayon.

manipulatives: Toys that children use their hands to play with.

manual communication: Use of sign language and fingerspelling as the primary mode of communication, with or without use of oral/aural communication.

manual dexterity: The coordination of the hands and fingers needed to complete the fine motor tasks.

manually coded English: Translation of the English language into signs. Generally, the vocabulary of American Sign Language (ASL) is used. ASL signs are supplemented with other signs and fingerspelling to correspond directly to English words and to maintain English grammar and syntax.

maroon spoon: A type of spoon used with children and adults with feeding difficulties. It's cup area is flatter and than most spoons, is made out of an unbreakable material, and is available in a small, narrow size and a larger wider size.

master teacher: A highly trained and skilled teacher who serves on a supervisory and consultive basis, assisting classroom teachers primarily with implementation problems.

maternal infection: Infection in a mother during pregnancy, usually concerned with potential injury to the unborn child.

maternal malnutrition: Refers to nutritional inadequacy in a pregnant mother.

maternal rubella German measles: German measles contracted by a woman during the early stages of pregnancy. Produces a high probability of severe handicaps in offsprings, including mental retardation, cardiac abnormalities, cerebral palsy, and sensory (hearing and vision) handicaps. It is a highly preventable disease that can be eradicated by vaccinating children under 12 years of age.

maternity care: The total episode of pregnancy, including all prenatal, delivery and postnatal care at six weeks; also includes treatment of complications.

maturation lag: A slowness in certain specialized aspects of neurological development.

maturation philosophy: A view that early childhood services do not remedy problems (and perhaps create difficulties) because young children may not be mature enough to cope with the pressures of structured learning.

maximum power output: Greatest possible intensity of a particular hearing aid receiver.

MBD: See "minimal brain dysfunction".

MD: See "muscular dystrophy".

MDE: See "multidisciplinary evaluation".

Mean Length of Utterance (MLU): The average length of a person's multiple and meaningful sounds.

measles: A serious and highly contagious disease which can cause brain damage, mental retardation, pneumonia, other respiratory problems, ear problems, or death. Immunizations with the MMR vaccine protect children from this disease. See "Measles, Mumps, Rubella" for immunization schedule.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine (MMR): A vaccine which protects children against the measles, mumps, and rubella diseases. Recommended administration is at 15 months and 4-6 years of age.

measurable objectives: Conceptualized and written in a way that permits measurement.

measurement bias: Refers to an unfairness or inaccuracy of results due to cultural background, sex, or race. See also "test bias".

meconium aspiration: A situation where meconium (greenish fecal matter, the first bowel movement of a fetus) filled amniotic fluid is breathed into the infant's lungs during the birth process. There may or may not be subsequent anoxia resulting in brain damage. Meconium aspiration is rare in babies born at less than 34 weeks gestation, and may be as high as 40 percent in post term babies.

MED: See "mental or emotional disturbance (or disorder)".

Medicaid: A government-sponsored health insurance program in the United States which provides payment for medical expenses and hospital care for those who meet income and disability guidelines.

Medicaid covered service: A medically necessary service which will be paid for by the Medicaid Program. Information regarding Medicaid covered services may be obtained from the Office of Medical Services, Department of Social Services.

Medicaid eligibility: Established criteria to determine if a person is eligible for the Medicaid Program. Information regarding eligibility criteria may be obtained from local Department of Social Services Offices.

Medicaid non-covered service: A service which will not be paid for by the Medicaid Program. A Medicaid recipient is responsible for the payment of a non-covered service. Information relating to Medicaid non-covered services may be obtained from the Office of Medical Services, Department of Social Services.

Medicaid provider: A professional or medical facility who is enrolled as a provider for the Medicaid Program by entering into a contract with the Medicaid Program to provide medical services to Medicaid eligible recipients. By entering into this contract the professional has agreed to abide by all rules and regulations governing the Medicaid Program. The Medicaid Program can only reimburse a provider who is an enrolled provider in the Medicaid Program.

Medicaid recipient: A person who has met all of the eligibility requirements for eligibility under the Medicaid Program.

medical application: An insurance application which includes a section which must be filled out by a physician following an examination of the proposed insured.

Medical Assistance (MA): See "Medicaid".

medical expense coverage: A form of health insurance which provides benefits for the treatment of sickness or injury.

medical improvement expected: When a disability determination is made and it is determined that the disability impairment may improve, the case is diaried for a future medical review (medical reexamination).

medical services: Under the Part H program for infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities, funding for medical purposes is available if those services are used for diagnostic purposes only.

medically necessary: The frequency, extent and types of services or supplies that represent appropriate medical care and are generally accepted by qualified professionals as reasonable and adequate for the diagnosis and treatment of illness, injury, or maternity and well-baby care.

Medicare: A United States government insurance program that provides medical expense coverage to persons over age 65 and to certain other classes of persons, as specified by Congress. It is comprised of two parts: HI - Hospital Insurance under Medicare; and SMI - Supplementary Medical Insurance under Medicare.

megalencephaly: A condition in which the head is enlarged and the brain is enlarged and abnormal. Usually associated with mental retardation.

melting pot: A view, often associated with the United States, that many cultures blend together into one, losing their distinctive and diverse elements.

member plans: Autonomous, regional plans (organizations) of the national Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

memory: Ability to remember things that happened a short or long time ago. Also referred to as "imagery" or "recall".

meningitis: An inflammation of the membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.

meningocele: One type of spina bifida in which the meninges, or protective covering around the spinal cord, has pushed out through the opening in the vertebrae in a sac called the "meningocele". However, the spinal cord remains intact. This form can be required with little or no damage to the nerve pathways.

meningomyelocele: Hernial protrusion of part of the meninges and substance of the spinal cord through a defect in the vertebral column.

mental age: A child's age equivalent score on tests of mental ability. Mental age may or may not be equivalent to chronological age.

mental disorder: In DSM-III, a mental disorder is conceptualized as a clinically significant behavioral or psychologic syndrome or pattern that occurs in an individual and that typically is associated with either a painful symptom (distress) or impairment in one or more important areas of functioning (disability). There is also an inference of a behavioral, psychological or biological dysfunction, and of disturbance beyond the relationship between the individual and society. A disturbance limited to a conflict between an individual and society may represent social deviance, which may or may not be commendable, but it is not by itself a mental disorder.

Mental Health Association (MHA): A nonprofit citizens organization dedicated to legislative advocacy on behalf of the mentally ill and children with disturbances. Other services include public education and prevention of abuse and family problems and sponsorship of parent support groups.

mental illness: A general term referring to any of the various forms of mental disorders; not widely used in professional circles, where such general terminology has been replaced by more specific, descriptive language.

mental or emotional disturbance (or disorder) (MED): See "emotionally disturbed".

mental retardation (MR): Having significantly subaverage general intellectual functioning (refers to scores obtained on intelligence tests) existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior (refers to a person's adjustment to everyday life) and manifested during the development period, which adversely affects a child's educational performance. Difficulties may occur in learning communication, social, academic, vocational, and independent living skills.

mental status: The level and style of functioning of the psyche, including a person's intellectual functioning and emotional, attitudinal, psychological and personality aspects. The term is commonly used to refer to the results of the examination of the patient's mental state.

mental status examination: The process of estimating psychological and behavioral function by observing the patient, eliciting his description of self and formally questioning him. Included in the examination are: (1) evaluation and assessment of any psychiatric condition, including provisional diagnosis and prognosis and determination of degree of impairment, suitability for treatment and indications for particular types of therapeutic intervention; (2) formulation of the personality structure of the subject, which may suggest the historical and developmental antecedents of whatever psychiatric condition exists; (3) estimation of the ability and willingness to participate appropriately in treatment. The mental status is reported in a series of narrative statements describing such things as affect, speech, thought content, perception and cognitive functions. The mental status examination is part of the general examination of all patients, although it may be greatly abbreviated in the absence of psychopathology.

Mentally Impaired/III (MI): A general term applied to individuals suffering from severe emotional problems or psychiatric disorders.

mentally retarded: See "mental retardation".

metabolic: Refers to the body's ability to process (metabolize) substances.

metabolic disorder: A condition or disease related to dysfunction in the chemical processes and activities of the body.

metabolic disorders/errors: Defects in the body's ability to process substances and nutrients normally. Lack of treatment for people with metabolic errors will result in mental retardation and in some cases death. In many of these conditions the primary treatment is diet. These conditions are rare and should be treated at centers that specialize in these disorders. Also referred to as "inborn errors".

metastatic: Refers to the spread of tumor cells to other parts of the body.

MHA: See "Mental Health Association".

MI: See "mentally impaired/ill".

microencephaly: A condition in which the head and brain are significantly smaller than normal for age and sex (head circumference less than the 5th percentile for age). May be associated with mental retardation.

microphone: A component of a hearing aid that changes acoustic (sound) signals into electrical signals.

microphone-telecoil switch: A two-position hearing aid control for changing from microphone input of a sound signal to corresponding telecoil input of the signal; for use with compatible telephone receivers and some special listening systems. See also "telecoil".

microphthalmos: An abnormally small eyeball.

mid-arm circumference: Measurement of arm circumference at the midpoint between acromion process at shoulder and olecranon process at elbow.

midline: The middle of the body; head in midline refers to the head in alignment with the spine.

Migrant Program Branch (MPB): A federal Head Start program serving Native American children who reside on reservations and migrant children.

mild learning and behavior disorders: A generic classification of disorders involving academic and/or social-interpersonal performance deficits that generally become evident in a school-related setting and make it necessary for the individual to receive additional support services beyond those typically offered in a regular education setting. However, it is assumed mildly disordered students remain in the regular education setting for the majority of the school day. The severity of the performance deficits for this population ranges from one to two standard deviations below the interindividual and/or intraindividual mean on the measure(s) being recorded.

minimal brain dysfunction (MBD): A medical term used to indicate a delay or mild neurological disorder in the ability to perform sensory or motor functions appropriately. Can be a result of brain injury, and is a common source of learning difficulties in the child with near-average intelligence.

minimum response levels: The lowest intensity level at which a child responds reliably to an acoustic stimulus. The signal stimulus level may be barely audible (at threshold) or well above threshold.

Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI or MMPI-2): A personality assessment tool widely used in making psychological evaluations. Normally given to persons 16-18 years of age and older.

minor: Any person under the age of 18 in most states. Parents responsibility for their children until age 18 when they legally become adults. The disabled may not have the capacity to act as an "adult" and the parents may want to continue in their previous role by obtaining Conservatorship/Guardianship.

minor motor seizures: Seizures that have been identified as myoclonic (shocklike contractions in muscles or muscle groups), akinetic (sudden loss of muscle tone), and infantile spasms (jackknife seizures).

mirror writing: Writing backwards from right to left, the letters appearing like ordinary writing seen in a mirror.

misarticulation: See "phonological impairment".

mixed: A type of bipolar disorder characterized by both manic and depressive symptoms.

mixed deafness/hearing loss: A type of hearing impairment which is a combination of conductive and sensorineural hearing losses. For example, a child with a hereditary sensorineural loss also having an ear infection or other ear disease.

MLU: See "Mean Length of Utterance".

MMPI or MMPI-2: See "Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory".

MMR: See "Measles, Mumps, Rubella".

mobility base: Equipment, often wheeled, on which seating systems are attached.

modality: The pathways through which an individual receives information and thereby learns. The "modality concept" postulates that some individuals learn better through one modality than through another. For example, the child may receive data better through the visual modality (by seeing it) than through his auditory modality (by hearing it).

modeling: A teaching process wherein the instructor demonstrates the appropriate behavior or skill to be learned as a means of teaching.

moderate learning and behavior disorders: A generic classification of disorders involving intellectual, academic, and/or social-interpersonal performance deficits that range between two and three standard deviations below the interindividual and/or intraindividual mean on the measure(s) being recorded. These performance deficits are not limited to any given setting, but are typically evident in the broad spectrum of environmental settings. Etiology of the problem(s) may be identified in some causes, but typically cannot be precisely pinpointed. Individuals with functional disorders at this level require substantially altered patterns of service and treatment and may need modified environmental accommodations.

modular contoured seating: The use of a variety of sizes and shapes of support pads and hardware fitted to a child's shape.

modular seating systems: Prefabricated standardized components (in contrast to custom) which are available in a variety of shapes and sizes.

mongolism: An outdated, unpreferred term describing syndromes of mental retardation. Such syndromes include Down's syndrome, Langdon-Down syndrome, congenital acromicria and trisomy 21.

monitoring: 1. In general, the function that involves checking a program in process to determine its effectiveness. 2. A requirement of P.L. 94-142 that all school systems receiving federal funds under that Act must undergo external evaluation.

monoplegia: Paralysis that involves one limb.

mood: A pervasive and sustained emotion that, in the extreme, markedly colors the person's perception of the world. Mood is to affect as climate is to weather. Common examples of mood include depression, elation, anger, and anxiety. See also the following moods: dysphoric, elevated, euphoric, euthymic, expansive, and irritable.

mood-congruent psychotic features: Delusions or hallucinations whose content is entirely consistent with either a depressed or a manic mood. If the mood is depressed, the content of the delusion or hallucinations would involve themes of either personal inadequacy, guilt, disease, death or nihilism or deserved punishment. If the mood is manic, the content of the delusions or hallucinations would involve themes of inflated worth, power, knowledge or identity or special relationship to a deity or a famous person.

mood-incongruent psychotic features: Delusions or hallucinations whose content is not consistent with either a depressed or a manic mood. Examples of such symptoms are persecutory delusions, thought insertion, thought broadcasting and delusions of being controlled, whose content has no apparent relationship to those seen in the mood-congruent psychotic features. (Note: The catatonic symptoms of stupor, mutism, negativism and posturing in manic episodes are also considered mood-incongruent psychotic features.)

Moro reflex: The "startle" reflex seen in infants. It is the reaction of infants to a variety of stimuli (i.e., when a table that an infant is lying on is bumped) which is characterized by a sudden extension and abduction of arms, hands and fingers from their usual fixed posture; the legs may follow the same movement pattern. It is present at birth and is strongest during the first three months of life.

morphology: The form and internal structure of words. The transformation of words in such ways as tense and number.

mosaicism: A type of Down syndrome in which the chromosomal accident occurs after fertilization.

motokinesthetic: Refers to a type of speech training used with hearing-disordered people, involving the feeling of an individual's face and reproducing breath and voice patterns.

motor: Movement of muscles and joints.

motor cortex: The surface of the brain that controls the muscles of the trunk, arms, and legs.

motor development/skills: The skills and performance of patterns related to the development and use of muscles or limbs. The development of motor skills are prerequisites to self help and play performance.

motor planning/praxis: The ability of the brain to conceive of, plan, organize, and carry out a sequence of new motor acts in response to an environmental demand.

Mowat sensor: A hand-held travel aid approximately the size of a flashlight, used by people who are blind. An alternative to the cane for warning of obstacles in front of the individual.

MPB: See "Migrant Program Branch".

MPH: Indicates a master's degree in public health.

MR: See "mental retardation".

MR/DD: See "mental retardation" and "developmental disability".

MSW: Indicates a master's degree in social work.

multi-agency interdisciplinary committee: A committee formed by representatives from more than one agency, with backgrounds in more than one field of expertise. This group of persons, along with the child and family, determines: eligibility for program(s) in question; existing needs of child and/or family; resources, programs, services available; service delivery; and program review decisions.

multicultural education: Education that promotes learning about multiple cultures and their values.

multidisciplinary evaluation/assessment (MDE): An evaluation of a child's strengths and weaknesses from a variety of professional vantage points using a number of different sources of information, and involving the child's parents. Typically, the child's present levels of physical, neurological, cognitive, speech and language, psychosocial development, and self-help skills are assessed.

multidisciplinary: Refers to 2 or more professionals (like educators, psychologists, and others) working together and sharing information in the evaluation, assessment, and development of an IFSP or IEP.

multihandicapped: Having two or more impairments, such as mentally retarded-blind, mentally retarded-orthopedically impaired, etc., the combination of which causes such severe education problems that the student cannot be accommodated in special education programs solely for one of the impairments. The term does not include deaf-blind students.

mumps: An acute viral disease with painful swelling around the jaw. Can cause central nervous system damage, deafness, painful inflammation of the male sex glands, kidney inflammation, and infections in other major organs. Immunizations with the MMR vaccine protect children from this disease. See "Measles, Mumps, Rubella" for immunization schedule.

munching: Early chewing activity composed of rhythmical up/down jaw movements with spreading, flattening, and some up/down tongue movements; begins at approximately 5 months of age with the introduction of solid foods.

muscle tone: Amount of tension in a muscle at rest.

muscular dystrophy (MD): A group of inherited, chronic disorders that are characterized by gradual wasting and weakening of the voluntary skeletal muscles.

musculoskeletal: Includes the bones, joints, and surrounding soft tissue such as the skin, muscles, ligaments, and joint capsules.

mutation: A change in the genetic material that occurs by chance.

myelomeningocele: The most severe form of spina bifida, in which a portion of the spinal cord itself protrudes through the back. In some cases, sacs are covered with skin; in others, tissue and nerves are exposed. Generally, people use the terms "spina bifida" and "myelomeningocele" interchangeably.

myoclonic seizure: A type of seizure that is characterized by short, isolated shocklike jerks (contractions) involving parts of a muscle, an entire muscle, or groups of related muscles.

myopia: Nearsightedness or poor vision at a distance. A refractive problem wherein the eyeball is excessively long, focusing light in front of the retina.

myringoplasty: A surgical reconstruction of a perforated eardrum.

myringotomy: An incision made in the eardrum to drain fluid from an infected ear. In a myringotomy and tubes, a small "bobbin" of plastic is inserted in the incision to allow air to enter the middle ear and assist in the drainage of fluid.

N

NAEYC: See "National Association for the Education of Young Children".

NAMI: See "National Alliance for the Mentally Ill".

narcissistic personality disorder: Grandiose sense of self-importance of uniqueness; preoccupation with fantasies of limitless success; need for constant attention and admiration; disturbances in interpersonal relationships, such as lack of empathy, exploitativeness, and wavering between extremes of overidealization and devaluation.

NARIC: See "National Rehabilitation Information Center".

nasality: A voice disorder in which a structural or functional inadequacy of the palate may cause a person to sound either nasal or denasal. Nasality may result from clefts of the palate, including submucous clefts; related craniofacial anomalies such as Pierre-Robin and Treacher Collins syndromes; neuropathies such as cerebral palsy; or, simply functional inadequacy. Denasality may result from physical blockage of air through the nasal passages or less frequently from idiosyncratic speech production styles.

NASDSE: National Association of State Directors of Special Education.

nasogastric tube: A plastic feeding tube placed in the nose and extended to the stomach.

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI): A self-help organization of mentally ill persons, their families and friends.

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): A professional organization for persons in early childhood education.

National Early Childhood Technical Assistance System (NEC*TAS): A national organization that assists states and other designated governing entities in developing multidisciplinary, coordinated, and comprehensive services for children with special needs, birth through age 8 years, and their families. It is funded through the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education, as part of P.L. 99-457, the Education of the Handicapped Act Amendments of 1986.

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Handicaps (NICHCY or NICCHY (both are used)): A free information service that assists parents, educators, caregivers, and others in ensuring that all children and youth with disabilities have a better opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH): A federal agency that sponsors research and demonstration activities to increase knowledge and improve services in the field of mental health. Part of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR): A federal agency that funds research and services for persons with physical or mental disabilities. Part of the United States Department of Education.

National Mental Health Association (NMHA): See "Mental Health Association (MHA)".

National Rehabilitation Information Center (NARIC): A resource and information center for families, professionals, schools, advocacy groups, legislators, policymakers, researchers, architects, and potential employers on all aspects of disability and rehabilitation. Funded by the National Institute for Disability Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR).

natural environment: Environment that is most natural to the child: home, foster care, hospital.

nature vs. nurture: The issue of determining how much of a person's ability is related to sociocultural influences (nurture) as opposed to genetic factors (nature).

NEC*TAS: See "National Early Childhood Technical Assistance System".

necrotizing enterocolitis: A condition in which the intestine becomes inflamed, and there is sometimes death of the intestinal wall. This death of the intestinal wall results in a shortening of the intestine and subsequent nutritional malabsorption and poor growth.

nectar liquids: A nutrition term used when describing dietary instructions. A non-clear liquid with texture or fiber, i.e., tomato juice, pear, peach, or apricot nectar. For example, 1/4 cup strained fruit plus 1/4 cup juice. Often used for patients with aspiration and/or poor control of thin liquids.

needs-based: A way of determining appropriate services that are necessary to most of the child's and family's needs.

negativism: Refers to circumstances where the demands on a young child exceed his or her performance level, which results in withdrawal and refusing to speak.

neologisms: New words invented by the subject, distortions of words or standard words to which the subject has given new, highly idiosyncratic meaning. The judgement that neologisms are present should be made cautiously, taking into account the subject's educational and cultural background. Examples: "I was accused of midigation" (meaning the subject was accused of breaking the law). "They had an insinuating machine next door" (explaining how her neighbors were bothering her). Neologisms may be observed in schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

neonatal: The first four weeks after a child's birth.

neonatal seizures: Seizures in newborns evidenced by alternating contractions of various muscle groups.

neonates: Newborn children or children of less than one month of age.

neonatologist: A medical doctor specializing in newborn infants, particularly those who are premature and hospitalized.

nerve deafness: See "sensorineural deafness".

neurocutaneous syndromes: A group of conditions that combine skin and sensory or nervous difficulties.

neurodevelopmental treatment approach (NTA): Movement as primary modality of treatment.

neurofibromatosis (NF): An inherited, progressive neurological disorder in which tumor(s) are present in the tissues of the central nervous system (e.g., skin, brain).

neurological: Pertaining to the nervous system.

neurological dysfunction/impairment: The inability to perform sensory or motor functions appropriately, due to damage or deficiency in the nervous system of the body.

neurologist: A medical doctor who has special training in the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases of the brain and nervous systems. Neurologists often see children who have seizures or are known to have had brain damage.

neuromotor: Refers to that portion of the human nervous system which implements or carries out the actual responses.

neuropsychologist: A clinical psychologist with special training in the physiology and treatment of mental problems. A neuropsychologist is not a doctor. He/she specializes in treating disorders of the mind and mental processes caused by diseases of the nervous system. A neuropsychologist can test and evaluate a child and make recommendations for treatment and educational programming, but may not prescribe medication.

neuroses: Behavior that involves a partial disorganization, characterized by combinations of anxieties, compulsions, obsessions, and phobias.

neurosurgeon: A doctor who is trained in surgery of the brain and the nervous system. Neurosurgeon, for example, often are called upon to insert or replace shunts used to drain excess fluids from the brain in children who have hydrocephalus.

neurotic disorder: A mental disorder in which the predominant disturbance is a symptom or group of symptoms distressing to the individual, recognized by him as unacceptable and alien (ego-dystonic); reality testing is grossly intact. Behavior does not actively violate gross social norms (though it may be quite disabling). The disturbance is relatively enduring or recurrent without treatment, and is not limited to a transitory reaction to stressors. There is no proven organic etiology or factor. See "neuroses".

neurotic process: A specific etiological process involving the following sequence: (1) unconscious conflicts between opposing desires or between desires and prohibitions, which cause (2) unconscious perception of anticipated danger or dysphoria, which leads to (3) use of defense mechanisms that result in (4) either symptoms, personality disturbance or both.

NF: See "neurofibromatosis".

NG tube: Nasal-gastric route for tube feeding.

NICCYH: See "National Information Center for Children and Youth with Handicaps".

NICHCY: See "National Information Center for Children and Youth with Handicaps".

NICU: Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

NIDRR: See "National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research".

NIMH: See "National Institute of Mental Health".

NMHA: See "National Mental Health Association".

noise suppression: Some hearing aids have circuitry designed to control unwanted background noise, for example; automatic gain control, compression amplification, automatic signal processing, and noise suppression switches. Some hearing aids are programmable and use digital technology to automatically adjust hearing aid settings for different listening environments.

noise-induced deafness: Hearing impairment which develops gradually from continuous exposure to noise which is above acceptable levels. Also referred to as "occupational deafness".

non-organism deafness: Functional deafness.

non-categorical: A classroom (or service system) that doesn't use diagnostic labels to classify the exceptionalities that children have.

non-participating provider: A service provider who decides not to accept the CHAMPUS determined allowable charge as the full fee for care. Payment goes directly to the patient in this case, and the patient must pay the bill in full.

non-traditional: Identified as a "special population" employment of enrollment of persons (female or male) who are in jobs which have been traditionally considered not appropriate for their sex.

nonavailability statement: Statement issued by uniformed service hospital when medical care can't be provided there and the patient must use civilian care. Patients who live outside of the designated zip code zone surrounding the service hospital do not need a nonavailability statement.

noncompliant/noncompliance: Not following directions or rules. 1. Pertaining to children who exhibit troublesome behaviors, this term refers to follow directions. 2. Pertaining to service delivery, this term refers to an agency's not meeting the requirements of the law or regulations.

nondiscriminatory and multidisciplinary assessment: One of the provisions of Public Law 94-142. This component requires that testing be in a child's native or primary language; procedures are selected and administered to prevent cultural or racial discrimination; assessment tools used are validated for the purpose they are being used; and that assessment is conducted by a multidisciplinary team using several pieces of information to formulate a placement decision.

nondisjunction: A type of Down syndrome in which the chromosomal pairs do not separate properly as the sperm or egg cells are formed; also known as Trisomy 21.

norm-based: See "norm-referenced".

norm-referenced assessment: Refers to assessment where a person's performance is compared with the average of a larger group.

normal: A general term applied to behavior or abilities that fall within the average range; that which is considered acceptable, not exceptional.

normal reflexes: A primitive reflex persisting beyond the appropriate age which interferes with development beyond that level. Fetal or neonatal responses that are simple, predictable, resulting from tactile and vestibular stimulation.

normality: See "normal".

normalization principle: 1. Making an individual's life and surroundings as culturally normal as possible. 2. The principle that children and families should have access to services provided in as usual a fashion and environment as possible. Normalization helps the child and family become or remain part of their community.

norms: Statistics that describe the test performance of specified groups, such as children of various ages or handicapping conditions in the standardization sample of a test.

NTA: See "neurodevelopmental treatment approach".

nurse practitioner: An individual licensed as a registered nurse and who has completed an advanced specialized nursing program.

nursing services: Support service to child and family to implement medical plans to treat health needs.

nutrition assessment: The collection and evaluation of information in seven categories: anthropometric (body measurements), clinical, biochemical, dietary, socio-economic, developmental (related to feeding skills), and behavioral (related to feeding). Nutrition assessments should be done by a registered dietitian, and may confirm the existence of a nutritional problem or concern.

nutrition screening: The collection of information in one or more the categories included in a "nutritional assessment". The ultimate goal of a screening is to make parents and caregivers aware of problems and offer suggestions to improve them.

nutrition services: Support to child and family to ensure maximum nutritional status. May include nutritional supplements or therapy.

nutritional supplements or therapy: Nutritional products used in place of, or as a supplement to, normal nutrition when a child is unable to receive adequate nutrition by normal means. Nutritional products include oral, enteral or parenteral formulas.

nutritionist: A nutritionist evaluates a person's eating habits and nutritional status. Nutritionists can provide advice about normal and therapeutic nutrition, special feeding equipment and techniques to increase a person's self feeding skills.

nystagmus: Uncontrolled, involuntary rhythmic rapid eye movements which may be congenital or acquired. Usually in response to movement of the head.

O

obesity: An excessive deposition of fat in the body. General indicators of obesity include: body weight 120% of standard body weight and weight for height.

objectives: The small steps taken to meet goals.

obsessions: Recurrent, persistent ideas, thoughts, images, or impulses that are ego-dystonic, that is, are not experienced as voluntarily produced, but rather as ideas that invade consciousness. Obsessions are characteristic of obsessive compulsive disorder and may also be seen in schizophrenia.

obstacles: Internal obstacles are the barriers within a person's own being that prevents them from solving their own problems. External barriers are the barriers outside of the person themselves that prevent the solving of problems.

occlusion: The closing and fitting together of dental structures.

occupational deafness: Noise-induced deafness.

occupational therapy (OT): A therapy, treatment, or instructional support provided by an occupational therapist to the child, family, and/or pertinent members of the child's environment. Occupational therapy helps develop adaptive or physical skills that will aid in daily living and improve interactions with a person's physical and social world. It focuses on developing functional skills related to sensory-motor integration; coordination of movement; fine motor skills; self-help skills (dressing, self-feeding, etc.); adaptive devices/equipment; computer keyboarding; positioning for school work; and potential work-related activities.

occupational therapist (OT): A person who practices occupational therapy and who may be licensed, registered, certified, or otherwise regulated by law. See "occupational therapy" for more information on what an occupational therapist is trained to provide.

ocular: Pertaining to the eye.

OMBUDSMEN: An experienced Navy wife who volunteers to help out other Navy wives with problems, etc.

omissions: An articulation error that occurs when not all of the sounds in a word are articulated. This type of articulation problem is frequently described as infantile. Some sounds are omitted more frequently than others, and the position within a word can affect the presence or omission of a particular sound.

open classroom: Programs and experiences used for instructional settings wherein the children are provided opportunities to initiate their own learning activities.

opportunistic infection: An infection caused by germs that are not usually capable of causing infection in normal people, but can do so given certain changes in the immune system (opportunity).

oppositional disorder: The covert display of underlying aggression by patterns of obstinate, but generally passive behavior. Children with this disorder often provoke adults or other children by the use of negativism, stubbornness, dawdling, procrastination, and other behaviors.

Optacon: A tactile scanner for reading, by people who are blind, that does not use the Braille system. The Optacon "reads" printed material and reproduces it on a finger pad through a series of vibrating pins.

ophthalmologist: A medical doctor who diagnoses and treats disease, infections, injuries, or birth defects that affect vision. Ophthalmologists can prescribe and administer treatment such as medication, correct defects (such as "lazy eye"), laser therapy, microsurgery, and corrective lenses.

ophthalmology: Branch of medicine dealing with the eye.

optic atrophy: A degenerative disease that results from deteriorating nerve fibers connecting the retina to the brain.

optic nerve: The nerve that connects the eye to the visual center of the brain.

optician: A person trained to grind, shape, and assemble lenses and frames for eye glasses which have been prescribed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

optometrist: Doctors of Optometry (OD's) who specialize in eye examinations for vision problems; prescribe eye glasses, contact lenses, and vision exercises; and provide counseling and special devices for low-vision problems. Optometrists are not medical doctors, and they do not treat disease.

OPV: See "Oral Polio Vaccine".

oral communication: Use of residual hearing for communication, usually with amplification, speech reading (lip reading), and speech.

oral hypersensitivity: Where touch to the mouth is unpleasant. This occurs when there is no oral stimulation and the mouth changes in ways that touch that used to be pleasurable, is now unpleasurable. The mouth becomes unfamiliar to taste, touch, texture, and other stimuli. An oral motor program is often begun by an occupational therapist and continued at home by the caregiver.

oral motor: Coordinate oropharyngeal musculature for controlled movements.

Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV): An immunization that protects children against polio. Recommended administration is at 2 months, 4 months, 15 months, and 4-6 years of age.

oral-pharyngeal motility study: See "videoswallow study".

organic murmur: See "heart murmur".

orientation: Awareness of where one is in relation to time, place, and person.

orientation & mobility (O & M): This term refers to the teaching and training of skills to a blind/visually impaired person that will familiarize him/her with surroundings and enable him/her to travel safely and independently throughout the environment.

orientation and mobility specialist: An individual trained to teach travel concepts and techniques to blind and visually handicapped persons.

orthopedic impairments: Deformities, diseases, or injuries to the bones, joints, or muscles which are congenital (e.g., club foot, absence of some member, etc.), acquired (e.g., poliomyelitis, bone tuberculosis, amputations, fractures or burns, etc.).

orthopedics: Prevention, diagnoses and treatment of diseases and abnormalities of the musculoskeletal system.

orthopedist: A medical doctor specializing in conditions affecting the bones and skeletal system.

orthopsychiatry: An approach that involves the collaborative effort of psychiatry, psychology, psychiatric social work, and other behavioral, medical, and social sciences in the study and treatment of human behavior in the clinical setting. Emphasis is placed on preventive techniques to promote healthy emotional growth and development, particularly of children.

OSEP: U.S. Office of Special Education Programs.

osmolality: The concentration of a dissolved substance per unit of solution. High osmolality may cause diarrhea.

ossicular chain: The three small bones (malleus, incus, and stapes, or hammer, anvil, and stirrup) that transmit vibrations through the middle ear cavity to the inner ear.

OT: See "occupational therapy" or "occupational therapist".

other health impaired: Having limited strength, vitality or alertness because of chronic or acute health problems, such as a heart condition, tuberculosis, rheumatic fever, nephritis, asthma, sickle-cell anemia, hemophilia, epilepsy, lead poisoning, leukemia or diabetes, which adversely affect a student's educational performance. Autistic students should be included in this category.

orthosis: An orthopedic appliance used to support, align, prevent or correct deformities or to improve the functioning of movable parts.

otitis media: Excessive fluid, inflammation, and/or infection in the middle ear, caused by an inability to drain out through the eustachian tube. If not detected, it can cause hearing loss significant enough to affect the child's speech and language development.

otolaryngologist: A medical specialist that deals particularly with disorders of the ear, nose and throat, as well as many diseases of the head and neck.

otolaryngology: The medical specialty that deals particularly with disorders of the ear, nose and throat, as well as many diseases of the head and neck.

otologist: One who is involved in the study of the ear and its diseases.

otology: The medical specialty that deals particularly with disorders of the ear and related structure.

otosclerosis: A condition associated with diseases of the inner ear, characterized by destruction of the capsular bone in the middle ear and growth of a weblike bone that attaches to the stapes. May result in hearing disorders.

otoscope: An instrument for examining the external ear canal and ear drum membrane.

ototoxic drugs: Drugs that can be poisonous to or have a deleterious effect on the eighth nerve or on the organs of hearing and balance.

outcome: A desired behavior or skill to be acquired as a result of intervention strategies.

outcome-based: Refers to selection of an intervention based on its results.

outpatient: 1. A person who is treated at a hospital, clinic, etc., and leaves without becoming admitted for further care as an inpatient. 2. Treatment or diagnostic services available in the community at a hospital, medical clinic, local mental health clinic, or from private therapists which allows the person to remain in their home and still receive care.

output range: Fixes the minimum to maximum decibel levels of the receiver of the hearing aid when sound entering the aid varies widely in intensity. An output control is adjusted by an audiologist so that sound coming out of the aid stays below a user's discomfort threshold. Output ranges vary among hearing aids.

overanxious disorder: Serious fears and worries that cannot be traced to specific problems or stresses.

overrepresented: Pertaining to multicultural issues, this term refers to circumstances where a group has a higher percentage of youngsters in special education than would be projected based on the proportion of their cultural group in the general population.

overvalued idea: An unreasonable and sustained belief or idea that is maintained with less than delusional intensity. It differs from an obsessional thought in that the person holding the overvalued idea does not recognize its absurdity and thus does not struggle against it. As with a delusion, the idea or belief is not one that is ordinarily accepted by other members of the person's culture or subculture.

overweight: Weight greater than the 95th percentile for age.

P

P & A: See "Protection and Advocacy".

P.L. 94-142: See "Public Law 94-142".

P.L. 96-272: See "Public Law 96-72".

P.L. 99-319: See "Public Law 99-319" and/or "Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals".

P.L. 99-457: See "Public Law 99-457".

PACER: See "Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights".

palmer grasp: A squeezing type of grasp in which the thumb is not involved.

PAMII: See "Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals".

panic attacks: Discrete periods of sudden onset of intense apprehension, fearfulness, or terror, often associated with feelings of impending doom. During the attacks there are such symptoms as dyspnea (shortness of breath), palpitations, chest pain or discomfort, choking or smothering sensations and fear of going crazy or losing control. Panic attacks are characteristic of panic disorder, but may also occur in somatization disorder, major depression and schizophrenia.

paperless braille: A device for writing in Braille where the information is recorded and retrieved in some manner not using paper such as a standard magnetic-tape cassette.

para: The number of live births. Commonly see the notation G2P, for example, which means gravida 2 para 1 - two pregnancies with one live birth.

parachute reaction: The automatic placing of hands on floor when infant is suddenly lowered from the prone position.

paralysis: A permanent or temporary loss or impairment of motor function.

parameters of classification: The basis used for classification.

paranoia: A rare condition characterized by the gradual development of an intricate, complex and elaborate system of thinking based on (and often proceeding logically from) misinterpretation of an actual event. A person with paranoia often considers himself endowed with unique and superior ability. Despite its chronic course, this condition does not seem to interfere with thinking and personality. To be distinguished from schizophrenia, paranoid type.

paranoid ideation: Ideation, of less than delusional proportions, involving suspiciousness or the belief that one is being harassed, persecuted or unfairly treated. The term is sometimes used when the clinician is unsure whether the disturbances are actually delusional. Ideas of reference often involve paranoid ideation.

paranoid personality disorder: Pervasive and long-standing suspiciousness and mistrust of others; hypersensitivity and scanning of environment for clues that selectively validate prejudices, attitudes, or biases. Stable psychotic features such as delusions and hallucinations are absent.

paranoid schizophrenia: Characterized by a persistence of or preoccupation with persecutory or grandiose delusions, or hallucinations with a persecutory or grandiose content. In addition, there may be delusions of jealousy.

paraplegia: Paralysis that involves the legs only.

parens patriae: In the context of mental illness, this term refers to the constitutional power of the state to involuntarily commit mentally ill persons who are in need of care and treatment for their mental illness.

parent: A parent, a guardian, a person acting as a parent of a child, or a surrogate parent who has been appointed in accordance with the law, but not the state if the child is a ward of the state.

Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (PACER): A coalition of 19 Minnesota disabilities, whose staff consists primarily of parents of children and adults with disabilities and adults with disabilities themselves. PACER offers information to parents about the laws and procedures, rights and responsibilities, and assists them in becoming informed and effective representatives for their children and young adults in educational, vocational and other service decision making.

Parent Information Center (PIC): Parent information and support programs funded by the United States Department of Education. Also known as Parent Training Centers (PTI).

Parent Training and Information Programs (or Centers) (PTI or PIC): Programs that provide information, training, and support to parents of children with special needs about acquiring services, working with schools and educators to ensure the most effective educational placement for their child, understanding the methods of testing and evaluating a child with special needs, and making informed decisions about their child's special needs. Each state has one PTI funded by the United States Department of Education. South Dakota's PTI is South Dakota Parent Connection, 1-800-640-4553.

parent training: 1. Classes or individual instruction designed to improve parenting skills in such areas as discipline, consistency, and communication. 2. Parent Training and Information (PTI) provides information and assistance to parents so they can be knowledgeable and effective advocates within service and policy systems.

parent/child interaction: Parental subsystem is composed of interactions between parents and their child. The relationship that occurs among parent/child on a daily/weekly basis. These relationships, the process of interaction, are responsive to individual and family needs.

parental successorship: An arrangement whereby a parent reaches an agreement (usually formal) with another party, whereby the parent's guardianship function over his child is automatically transferred to the other party upon the parent's death; if a formal agreement is involved, parental successorship constitutes guardianship successorship, as is possible under the laws of the State of Washington.

parenteral: Brought into the body in some other way than the digestive tract, as by subcutaneous or intravenous injection.

Part H: The part of P.L. 99-457 which authorizes the U.S. Department of Education to administer a discretionary (optional) grant program to states for early intervention services to infants and toddlers with their state's criteria for eligibility.

partially sighted: 1. A term used in the educational context when describing a student with a visual impairment that indicates that some type of visual problem has resulted in a need for special education. 2. According to the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, refers to persons with a visual acuity greater than 20/200, but not greater than 20/70 in the better eye after correction.

participating provider: A service provider who accepts CHAMPUS assignment (see "accepting assignment"). Payment in this case goes directly to the provider. The patient must still pay the cost-share, outpatient deductible and the cost of care not covered by CHAMPUS.

PASS: See "Plans for Achieving Self Support".

passive: Movement controlled from the outside or done by someone else.

passive range of motion: Movement of body parts through an arc, by an outside power source.

passive-aggressive personality disorder: Aggressive behavior manifested in passive ways such as obstructionism, pouting, procrastination, intentional inefficiency and obstinacy. The aggression often arises from resentment at failing to find gratification in a relationship with an individual or institution upon which the individual is overdependent.

pathology: Alterations in an organism caused by disease.

payor of last resort: The Medicaid Program is always payor of last resort which means if a Medicaid eligible recipient has a third party liability source other than Medicaid, the other payment source must be billed before Medicaid and evidence of payment or denial must accompany a Medicaid claim.

PCP: See "pneumocystic carinni pneumonia".

PCRC: See "PACER Computer Resource Center".

PDD: See "pervasive developmental disorder".

PE: See "physical education".

PE Tubes: Tubes placed in children's ears to help stop ear infections.

Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test - Revised (PPVT-R): A testing instrument which assesses comprehension of single spoken words through a picture pointing task.

pediatric RN: A registered nurse specializing in the care of children.

pediatrician: A medical doctor who specializes in the general health care, childhood diseases, and treatments of infants and young children.

peer buddies: A peer who "helps" the student through an activity or to move about through the school building. It is important to distinguish that peer buddies do activities with a student, instead of doing things for the student with a disability.

peer tutor: A peer who "teaches" and/or develops a skill with a student having a disability. The peer takes an active role in helping expand the student's skills. The peer tutor, participates in the IEP process and can actually be assigned team member status based on the level of involvement they have with the student having a disability.

people first language: The respectful way of talking or writing about persons with disabilities in a manner that identifies and emphasizes the "person first" and the disability second. The use of people first language encourages that all references about a person's needs, disabling condition, use of specialized equipment, etc., are stated following the reference to the person. Example: Instead of saying, "A cerebral palsied boy confined to a wheelchair", say "A boy with cerebral palsy uses a wheelchair".

perception: A person's ability to consciously recognize and interpret what is seen, heard, or felt. More specifically, the process of organizing or interpreting the raw data (stimuli) obtained through the senses.

perceptual disorders/handicaps: The inability to interpret stimuli received through one or more of the senses (despite adequate vision, hearing, and other sensory processes) and then to perform appropriate actions in response to those stimuli.

perceptual motor: An individual's ability to interpret stimuli received through the senses, and then perform appropriate movements or motor actions in response to those stimuli. The motor activity reflects what is happening to the sensory organs such as the visual, auditory, tactual and kinesthetic sensations. Perceptual motor skills emerge after the sensory input systems are stabilized, during the fifth through the seventh year of life. Also referred to as "sensorimotor".

performance feedback: Information given to students by teachers or therapists regarding how well they performed.

perinatal: Pertaining to or occurring in the period of time shortly before and after the birth of an infant (28 weeks gestation to 1-4 months of age).

peripheral nervous system: The parts of the nervous system that are outside the brain and spinal cord.

periventricular leukomalacia: Refers to the watershed infarct in premature infants. The lesion results from decreased cerebral blood flow to the periventricular white matter surrounding the lateral ventricles in the brain. The associated neurologic deficit is spastic dyslexia.

perseveration: 1. The tendency to continue an activity once it has been started and to be unable to modify or stop the activity even though it is acknowledged to have become inappropriate. 2. Persistent repetition of words, ideas or subjects so that, once an individual begins speaking about a particular subject or uses a particular word, it continually recurs. Perseveration differs from the repetitive use of "stock words" or interjections such as "you know" or "like". Perseveration is most commonly seen in organic mental disorders, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

personal hearing aid: A hearing aid belonging to a student and used by the student outside the classroom.

personality: The characteristic way in which individuals behave and respond to various environments.

personality disorders: 1. Behavior disorders in which an individual is overly anxious, extremely shy, or unusually sad much of the time. 2. Deeply ingrained, inflexible, maladaptive patterns of relating, perceiving, and thinking of sufficient severity to cause either impairment in functioning or distress. Personality disorders are generally recognizable by adolescence or earlier, continued throughout adulthood, and become less obvious in middle or old age. Some personality disorders cited in DSM-III are: antisocial, borderline, compulsive, dependent, histrionic, narcissistic, paranoid, passive-aggressive, schizoid, and schizotypal. Refer to those specific disorders for individual definitions.

personally identifiable information: The student's name, the name of the student's parent or other family member, the address of the student or student's family, a personal identifier, such as the student's social security number or student number, and a list of personal characteristics or other information that would make the student's identity easily traceable.

pertussis: Also known as "whooping cough". A serious respiratory infection which can cause pneumonia, brain damage, or death. Immunization with the DTP vaccine protects against this disease. See "Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis" for immunization schedule.

pervasive developmental disorder (PDD): 1. Extreme distortions or delays in the development of social behavior and language. 2. A term used to describe drug exposure to children while in the womb. Results of this exposure can cause extremely short attention spans. Behavior disorders, limited or no processing skills, and/or difficulty understanding spoken words.

petit mal seizures: Seizures characterized by brief periods of inattention, with rapid eye-blinking or head-twitching.

Ph.D.: Indicates a doctoral degree in any of a wide range of disciplines (sociology, psychology, anthropology, mathematics, etc.).

phenothiazines: Drugs that affect neurochemicals in the brain and are used to control behavior.

phenylalanine: A substance found in foods such as milk, which, when not processed, can cause damage to the central nervous system.

phenylketonuria (PKU): An inherited disease that affects the way the body is able to process food it takes in. It can be detected through a routine screening soon after birth, and can cause mental retardation if strict diet management is not instituted. Children with PKU can't metabolize a part of protein called phenylalanine, which then collects in the blood stream. This abnormal build-up of phenylalanine can prevent the brain from developing as it should. Children with PKU often are irritable, restless, and destructive. They may have a musty odor about them, and often have dry skin or rashes. Some have convulsions. Usually, they become physically well-developed children and have blonder hair than their relatives.

phobia: A persistent, irrational fear that results in a compelling desire to avoid the dreaded object, activity or situation (the phobic stimulus). More commonly, the individual does actually avoid the feared activity, situation or object, though he recognizes that the fear is unreasonable and unwarranted by actual dangerousness. Some individuals with a phobia claim that their avoidance is rational because they anticipate overwhelming anxiety or some other strong emotion that is out of their control; they do not claim, however, that their anxiety is rationally justified.

phocomelia: Defective development of the limbs so that the hands and/or feet are attached close to the body and resemble flippers.

phonation: The utterance of vocal sounds - the voice - produced in the larynx or "voice box".

phonic generalization: Refers to the ability to generalize information related to sounds from one word or configuration to another, predicting that which might follow, in order to approximate proper spelling.

phonological impairment: A common speech disorder also known as misarticulation. Here the child says the sounds wrong, or omits or duplicates certain sounds within a word. The problem may reflect poor neurological motor skills, a learning error, or difficulty in identifying certain speech sounds. Examples of common errors are "wabbit" for "rabbit", "thnake" for "snake", "dood" for "good", and "poo" for "spoon". Another phonological impairment is unstressed syllable deletion, in which a child simply skips over a syllable in a long word, as in "nana" for "banana", or "te-phone" for "telephone". Many of these misproductions are a part of normal development and are expected in the speech of very young children, but when they persist past the expected age they are considered abnormal and usually indicate brain dysfunction.

phonological process analysis: The evaluation process in which the patterns of speech errors are carefully analyzed to determine if a developmental phonological disorder may be present.

phonology: The system of speech sounds that an individual utters.

physical development: Growth. Biogenetically based changes in a child's physical characteristics, including changes in weight, height, skeletal and muscular features, and maturation of the circulatory, respiratory and nervous systems.

physical disorders: Bodily impairments that interfere with an individual's mobility, coordination, communication, learning, and/or personal adjustment.

physical education (PE): The development of physical and motor fitness, and fundamental motor skills and patterns through individual and group games and sports, including intramural and lifetime sports, special physical education, adapted physical education, movement education, and motor development.

physical or mental impairment: Any physiological disorder or condition, cosmetic disfigurement, or anatomical loss affecting one or more of the following body systems: neurological, musculoskeletal and special sense organs; respiratory, including speech organs; cardiovascular; reproductive; digestive; genito-urinary; hemic and lymphatic; skin; and endocrine; or any mental or psychological disorder, such as mental retardation, organic brain syndrome, emotional or mental illness, and specific learning disabilities. The term includes such diseases and conditions as orthopedic, visual, speech, and hearing impairments; cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and muscular dystrophy; multiple sclerosis; cancer; heart disease; diabetes; drug abuse; and alcoholism.

physical therapist (PT): A person who is licensed to assist in the examination, testing, and treatment of persons who are physically disabled or handicapped through the use of special exercise, application of heat or cold, use of sonar waves, and other techniques. A physical therapist usually becomes qualified by taking a 4-year college course leading to a B.S. in physical therapy or a special 12-month certificate course after obtaining a bachelor's degree in a related field.

physical therapy (PT): Instructional support and treatment of physical disabilities provided by a trained physical therapist, under a doctor's prescription, that helps a person improve the use of bones, muscles, joints, and nerves. Physical therapy includes the use of massage, exercise, stretching, water, light, heat, and certain forms of electricity, all of which are mechanical rather than medical in nature. Physical therapy will assist in maximizing a person's general fitness, sensorimotor development, neurobehavioral organization, neuro-skeletal-muscular function, and cardiopulmonary status.

PIC: See "Parent Training and Information Programs (or Centers)".

pica: The craving and eating of unusual foods or other substances. Seen in a variety of medical conditions, pregnancy, and emotional disturbances.

pictures/photos: Use of pictures and symbols to communicate with others.

PICU: Pediatric intensive care unit.

Pidgin Sign English: A "pidgin" language results from the combined use of ASL, Signed English, and fingerspelling. It is not strictly ASL or English, but can be understood by users of both methods.

pigmentation: Coloration of the skin and eyes.

pincer grasp: Bringing together the thumb and the tip of the index finger so that an object is held deftly.

pituitary dwarfism: A form of dwarfism or arrested growth that is caused by failure of the pituitary gland. It results in overall smallness.

PKU: See "phenylketonuria".

placement: The classroom, program, and/or therapy that is selected for a student with special needs.

placenta abrupto: A condition in which the placenta separates prematurely from the uterine wall. This is a serious condition that may result in spontaneous abortion.

placenta previa: A condition characterized by a placental implantation in the lower portion of the uterus. The position of the placenta may completely cover the internal cervical opening, or it may be just within the lower segment, or it may partially cover the internal cervical opening.

Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS): A plan set up through the Social Security Administration to put aside funding for the special needs of a person with a disability or visual impairment. Under a plan, a person is permitted to receive earned and unearned income, and accumulate resources over a reasonable period of time in order to obtain occupational training and education, purchase occupational equipment or assistive/adaptive devices, establish a business, etc., thereby encouraging the individual to become financially self-supporting. To qualify for a PASS, the person must be receiving SSI benefits. The income and resources set aside under a plan are excluded from the SSI income and resources tests.

planar seating: The use of flat planes or surfaces (rather than contoured) to support a child. Also referred to as "linear seating".

platelet transfusion: A blood transfusion in which the red blood cells are removed and the remaining blood is rich with platelets, which prevent bleeding.

platelets: Small particles in the blood that assist the blood in clotting.

play audiometry: A play activity such as dropping a block, putting rings on a peg, etc., is utilized as the response to acoustic stimulus.

play skills: An activity voluntarily engaged in for pleasure that uses physical and psychosocial skills.

pneumocystic carinii pneumonia (PCP): A rare form of pneumonia involving a tiny parasite.

pneumothorax: An accumulation of air or gas in the pleural cavity. The air enters either by an external wound, a lung perforation, from burrowing abscesses, or from the rupture of a superficial lung cavity. Pneumothorax is attended with sudden and severe pain and rapidly increasing dyspnea.

PNF: See "proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation".

police power: In the context of mental illness, this term refers to the constitutional power of the state to involuntarily commit mentally ill persons in order to prevent harm (usually physical harm) to the self or others.

policy/policies: 1. Rules and regulations; as related to early intervention and special education programs, the rules that a state or local school system has for providing services for and educating its students with special needs. 2. The contract between an insurance company and the policy owner under which the insurance company agrees to pay the policy benefit when specific losses occur, provided the insurer receives the required premiums.

policyholder: The owner of any insurance policy. This may be an employer or other party that applies for and is issued a group insurance contract.

polio: A viral disease with three known strains which can cause permanent paralysis, deformity, or death. Immunization with the OPV vaccine protects children against this disease. See "Oral Polio Vaccine" for the immunization schedule.

pommel: A solid, rounded and padded device placed between the thighs when a seating system is used to aid in proper positioning.

positioning: The process of placing an individual into a position in which the body parts are in proper alignment to each other.

post term: Infants born after 40 weeks gestation.

post-ictal sleep: Sleep that follows an epileptic seizure. It is natural and should be allowed.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Anxiety disorder following a traumatic event.

postauricular hearing aid: A behind-the-ear hearing aid.

postlingual deafness/disorders: Hearing impairment occurring after the development of speech and language.

postnatal: The time period after birth.

postpartum period: The period of time shortly after childbirth.

postural control/development: The ability to assume and maintain postures (positions) which are prerequisites to self help and play performance. Includes positioning and maintaining the head, neck, trunk, and limb alignment with appropriate weight shifting, midline orientation, and righting reactions for function.

postural drainage: Refers to the draining of fluids through changing the posture of an individual such as is done with cystic fibrosis.

poverty of content of speech: Speech that is adequate in amount, but conveys little information because of vagueness, empty repetitions, or use of stereotyped or obscure phrases. The interviewer may observe that the individual has spoken at some length, but has not given enough information to answer a question. Alternatively, the individual may provide enough information, but requires many words to do so, so that his lengthy reply can be summarized in a sentence or two. The term poverty of content of speech is generally not used when the speech is, for the most part, not understandable (incoherence).

poverty of speech: Restriction in the amount of speech, so that spontaneous speech and replies to questions are brief and unelaborated. When the condition is severe, replies may be monosyllabic (one syllable) and some questions may be unanswered. Poverty of speech occurs frequently in schizophrenia, major depressive episodes and organic mental disorders, such as dementia.

PPVT-R: See "Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test - Revised".

Prader Willi Syndrome: A genetic disorder characterized by overeating, hypotonia, hypomentia, hypogonadism and obesity.

pragmatic: A component of language that is concerned with the use of language in social contexts, including rules that govern language functions and forms of messages when communicating.

pre term: Infants born before 37 or 38 weeks gestation.

pre-academics: The time of day in a preschool scheduled for working on counting, colors, shapes, etc.

pre-existing conditions provision: A health insurance policy provision which states that until the insured has been covered under the policy for a certain period, the insurer will not pay benefits for any injury, sickness, or health condition which occurred or manifested itself before the policy was issued and, generally, which was not disclosed on the application.

pre-service training: Educational training for vocational educational teachers, counselors, supervisors, and administrators to enable them to increase skills and knowledge related to jobs which they plan to enter.

pre-written cards: Communication devices used for communicating predictable everyday occurrences and basic wants and needs.

precipitous birth: A delivery wherein the time between the onset of labor and birth is unusually short, generally less than two hours.

precision teaching: An instructional approach that specifically pinpoints the skills to be taught, measures the initial level of those skills, specifies goals and objectives for improvement, and measures on a daily basis in order to alter the program design if progress is not sufficient.

prelingual deafness/disorder: Loss of hearing sensitivity that occurred at birth or earlier than the development of speech and language (before 2 - 5 years of age). Hearing loss may be congenital (born with) or adventitious (having occurred after birth, acquired).

prematurity: Underdevelopment; the condition of an infant born too soon. Refers to infants delivered before 37 weeks from the first day of the last menstrual period.

premium: The payment or one of a series of payments, required by the insurer to put an insurance policy in force and to keep it in force.

prenatal: The time before birth, while a baby is developing during pregnancy. The period of time between the conception and birth of an infant.

prenatal rubella: See "maternal rubella".

presbycusis: A loss of hearing with increasing age.

pressure areas/sores: Red, swollen, and/or bruised spots on the skin surface. See also "decubitus ulcer".

pressure of speech: Speech that is increased in amount, accelerated and difficult or impossible to interrupt. Usually it is also loud and emphatic. Frequently, the individual talks without any social stimulation and may continue to talk even though no one is listening. Pressure of speech is most often seen in manic episodes, but may also occur in some cases of organic mental disorders, major depression with psychomotor agitation, schizophrenia, other psychotic disorders, and, occasionally, acute reactions to stress.

presumptive disability: A condition (e.g., total and permanent blindness, loss of two limbs, etc.) which, if present, automatically causes an insured to be considered totally disabled.

prevalence: The number of persons in any given population who exhibit a condition or problem at a specific point in time.

prevention: Activities which address the causes of developmental disabilities and the exacerbation of functional limitations, such as activities which - (A) eliminate or reduce the factors which cause or predispose persons to developmental disabilities or which increases the prevalence of developmental disabilities; (B) increase the early identification of existing problems to eliminate circumstances that create or increase functional limitations; and (C) mitigate against the effects of developmental disabilities throughout the person's lifespan.

prevocational deafness: Hearing impairments resulting prior to age 19.

prevocational training programs: Programs designed to provide attitudinal and motivational services to students prior to their entering vocational preparatory programs. Programs may also include basic skills development, assessment of student needs, abilities, aptitudes, and interests in relation to vocational education and jobs, as well as guidance and counseling services.

primary care taker: Principal custodian: person whose work is to take care of some thing, place or person.

primary tumor: An original tumor (as opposed to a metastatic tumor).

primary-care physician: A physician who has principal responsibility for an individual's care, perhaps a family physician.

primitive reflexes: Reflexes present prior to or at birth and normally integrated during the first 4-6 months of life.

print-on palm: A form of communication in which capital block letters are traced with the index finger into another person's palm.

private therapist: Any professional (therapist, tutor, psychologist, etc.) not connected with the public school system or with a public agency.

privilege: The legal right of a patient, always established by statute, to prevent his physician from testifying about information obtained in the course of his treatment by the physician. Thus, a legal affirmation of the ethical principle of confidentiality. See privileged communication.

privileged communication: The laws of evidence in some jurisdictions provide that certain kinds of communication between persons who have a special confidential or fiduciary (trusting) relationship will not be divulged. The psychotherapist-patient and doctor-patient relationship is, in some states, considered privileged communication. But the law is in a state of flux and there are many exceptions (e.g., a patient who sues, basing the suit in whole or in part on psychiatric considerations, may waive privilege). It is important to realize that the privilege belongs to the patient, not to the therapist, and can be waived only by the patient unless otherwise provided by the law in legal proceedings.

probate: The court proceedings in which there is supervision over the property passing from a deceased person to beneficiaries under the provisions of the Will, or if there is no Will, under the provisions of the less generous state law.

probationary period: A period of time which must pass after a new employee is hired before the new employee is eligible to enroll in the company's group insurance plan. Also referred to as a waiting period.

procedural safeguards: 1. Laws that protect the rights of children with disabilities and their families. 2. The requirements of a law, for instance, IDEA requires that children with disabilities be served in the least restrictive environment appropriate to their educational needs. Non-discriminatory testing and use of multiple criteria in the determination of placement.

process schizophrenia: A type of schizophrenia attributed more to organic factors than to environmental ones; typically begins gradually, continues chronically, and progresses (either rapidly or slowly) to an irreversible psychosis. Contrast with reactive schizophrenia.

prodromal: Early signs or symptoms of a disorder.

productivity: (A) Engagement in income-producing work by a person with developmental disabilities which is measured through improvements in income level, employment status, or job advancement; or (B) Engagement by a person with developmental disabilities in which work contributes to a household or community.

professionals: Medical specialists, day care providers, hospital and school personnel, early intervention program staff, speech therapist, OT, PT, psychologists, etc.

profound handicap: An extreme level of limitation imposed on an individual by the environment and the person's capacity to cope with that limitation.

profound/multiple disorders: See "severe and profound/multiple disorders".

prognosis: A forecast as to the recovery or outcome of a condition or disease.

program(s): In special education, a service, placement, and/or therapy designed to help a child with special needs.

progressive: 1. A gradual worsening. 2. As pertains to a progressive hearing loss, the amount of loss continues to regress over time.

Project Head Start: A prevention program that attempts to identify and teach high risk children before they enter public school.

projectile vomiting: Vomiting with the material ejected with great force.

prone/pronation: Lying on the stomach, facing downward, forearm palm down.

proprioceptive: 1. Pertaining to stimuli receptors located in tissue that is under the skin, such as muscles. 2. A person's proprioceptive system interprets stimuli originating in muscles, joints, and other internal tissues to give information about the position of one body part in relation to another.

proprioceptive neuromuscular facilitation (PNF): A method of promoting or hastening the response of the neuromuscular mechanisms through stimulation of the proprioceptor (sensory nerve endings that give information concerning movements and position of the body). These nerve endings occur in muscles, tendons, and canals of the inner ear.

prosody: See "rhythm".

prosthetic: A device that replaces a missing or malfunctioning part of the body, such as an arm, a joint, teeth, hearing aids, etc.

Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals (PAMII): In 1986, the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act was signed into law (P.L. 99-319, as amended in 1988). Individuals who are labeled mentally ill and who reside in facilities which provide care and treatment are often vulnerable to abuse and neglect and often are denied their rights. The PAMII system was designed to investigate incidents of abuse, neglect and rights violations of individuals diagnosed as mentally ill. Also, to pursue administrative, legal and other appropriate remedies on behalf of such individuals whose rights are violated. Each state has a PAMII program; in South Dakota, the agency to provide such services is the South Dakota Advocacy Services - Mental Health Advocacy Program.

Protection and Advocacy (P & A): A nationwide system to protect and advocate the rights of persons with developmental disabilities. Each state is mandated by Section 113 of the 1975 Developmental Disabilities Act to have a protection and advocacy agency. Most statewide agencies fulfill their mandate through several advocacy approaches, such as legal advocacy, systems advocacy, citizen advocacy, self-advocacy, and information and referral. South Dakota's P & A agency is SD Advocacy Services, 1-800-658-4782.

protective services: Services which assist individuals who are unable to manage their own resources or to protect themselves from neglect, exploitation, or hazards. Examples of such services are outreach and referrals, counseling, case management and follow-along, guardianship, financial support, legal aid, and housekeeping assistance.

protege: Literally, the protected one; the person in whose behalf advocacy is being exercised.

protein: A food that supplies the basic building materials required by the body. All children need adequate amounts of protein to assist in brain and body growth.

provider: Person or institution rendering medical services to the patient.

proximal: Nearest to the point of reference; opposite of distal or farthest from the point of reference.

pseudodementia: Clinical features resembling a dementia that are not due to organic brain dysfunction or disease. Pseudodementia may occur in a major depressive episode or may be seen in factitious disorder with psychological symptoms.

pseudoglioma: A nonmalignant intraocular disturbance resulting from the detachment of the retina.

psychiatric nurse: A registered nurse specializing in work with psychiatric patients and their families.

psychiatric social worker: Social workers specializing in work with psychiatric patients and their families.

psychiatrist: A medical doctor who conducts screening, diagnosis, and treatment of mental, psychological, emotional, behavioral, and developmental, or organic disorders. Because they are medical doctors, psychiatrists can prescribe medications to alleviate the symptoms of various mental disorders.

psycho-social (development): The psychological development of a person in relation to his or her social environment. Includes the formation and growth of two-way relationships with significant persons in their life, and the way in which one socially responds to the surrounding environment.

psycho-therapist: A mental health professional who provides psychotherapy.

psychoanalyst: A person who diagnoses and treats emotional disorders through special techniques that explore a patient's mental and emotional makeup.

psychogenic deafness: Auditory impairment which may result from emotional stress as an unconscious means of escape from an intolerable situation. Also referred to as conversion or hysterical deafness.

psychological services: Support to the family and child to facilitate functional psychological/behavioral characteristics (growth of relationships with caregivers and peers, socially responding to the environment, etc.).

psychologist: An individual who is trained and licensed to research, evaluate, and provide treatment to individuals pertaining to their social, emotional, psychological, behavioral or developmental problems. A psychologist is not a medical doctor, and cannot prescribe medications. See also "clinical psychologist".

psychology: Professional specialty or discipline concerned with mental processes and behavior.

psychometrist: A professional who specializes in the administration of psychological tests, differentiated from a school psychologist in most areas by the fact that psychometrists emphasize collaboration in interventions to a lesser degree.

psychometry: The broad field of psychological and mental testing.

psychomotor agitation: Excessive motor activity associated with a feeling of inner tension; the activity is usually nonproductive and repetitious. When the agitation is severe, it may be accompanied by shouting or loud complaining. The term should be used in a technical sense to refer only to states of tension or restlessness that are accompanied by observable excessive motor activity. Examples: Inability to sit still, pacing, wringing of hands, pulling at clothes.

psychomotor retardation: 1. A slowed development of abilities to perform acts involving cognitive and physical processes. 2. A generalized slowing down of physical reactions, movements and speech.

psychomotor seizure: A type of seizure in which the child displays inappropriate, purposeless behavior (such as lip smacking, chewing, or other automatic reactions) for the setting and automatic or involuntary movements and actions.

psychosis: A general term used to describe any of several mental disorders characterized by social withdrawal, distortions of reality, delusions, hallucinations, illusions, loss of contact with environment, disintegration of the personality, and unclear thinking to the degree that any one of these interferes with the capacity to cope with the demands of everyday life.

psychotherapist: A mental health professional who provides psychotherapy.

psychotherapy: A broad term applied to a variety of approaches to the treatment of mental and emotional disorders.

psychotic: A term indicating gross impairment in reality testing. It may be used to describe the behavior of an individual at a given time or a mental disorder in which at some time during its course all individuals with the disorder have grossly impaired reality testing. When there is gross impairment in reality testing, the individual incorrectly evaluates the accuracy of his or her perceptions and thoughts and makes incorrect inferences about external reality, even in the face of contrary evidence. The term psychotic does not apply to minor distortions of reality that involve matters of relative judgement. For example, a depressed person who underestimated his achievements would not be described as psychotic, whereas one who believed he had caused a natural catastrophe would be so described. In DSM-III the psychotic disorders include pervasive developmental disorders, schizophrenic and paranoid disorders, psychotic disorders not elsewhere classified, some organic mental disorders, and some affective disorders.

PT: See "physical therapist" or "physical therapy".

PTI: See "Parent Training and Information Program (or Center)".

public agency: An agency, office, or organization that is supported by public funds and serves the community at large.

Public Law 94-142 (P.L. 142): A law passed in 1975 requiring that public schools provide a "free, appropriate public education" to school-aged children ages 3-21 (exact ages depend on your state's mandate - SD is 3-21), regardless of handicapping condition. Originally referred to as the Education for All Handicapped Children's Act (EHA), and reauthorized as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Public Law 96-272 (P.L. 96-272): Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980. Federal law outlining procedures for the placement of children out of home by state child welfare agencies.

Public Law 96-398 (P.L. 96-398): Mental Health Systems Act (1980) encourages the development of systems of care. Policies contained in the Act received no specific funding.

Public Law 99-319 (P.L. 99-319): Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act of 1986. Federal law allocating funds to each state for advocacy activities on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities or mental illness.

Public Law 99-457 (P.L. 99-457): A federal law providing free and appropriate education and "related services" to preschool age children with handicaps, and an optional Part H program for states to provide early intervention and related services to eligible infants and toddlers, birth - two years of age who have developmental disabilities. This law is amendment to P.L. 99-142, passed in 1986. See also "Amendments to the Education of the Handicapped Act, 1986".

Public Law 99-660 (P.L. 99-660): Comprehensive Mental Health Services Act provides for statewide intervention services for children and adolescents with mental health concerns. The primary characteristic affecting children is the development and implementation of CASSP programs in local communities.

pull-out: A term applied to interventions that remove a student with a disability from the regular classroom to a separate class for at least part of the school day.

pupil: The opening in the iris of the eye that expands and contracts to control the amount of light entering the eye.

pure tone audiometry: Audiometric evaluation using tones that are free of external noise.

pure word deafness: See "aphasia".

puree: A nutrition term used when describing dietary instructions. Semi-solid consistency of food with high water content and low calorie density. No lumps, jar baby food can substitute. Examples, applesauce or baby chicken stirred well. This is a step up from liquids towards solids.

Q

quadriplegia: Paralysis or partial paralysis of all four limbs of the body (both arms and both legs). The legs are usually affected more than the arms.

qualified: 1. When a person has met State approved or recognized certification, licensing, registration, or other comparable requirements that apply to the area in which the person is providing a service. 2. A person with a disability who: (a) with reasonable accommodation; (b) with respect to services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for receiving the services in question.

R

R & R: Resource and Referral.

R & T: See "Research and Training Centers".

radiotherapy: Treatment of disease, usually cancer, by using x-rays.

raised alphabet card: A communication device in which the alphabet is printed above the same letters in braille. The speaker places the consumer's index finger on the braille letters, thereby spelling words.

range of motion: How far you can bend your body parts. More specifically, the range measured in degrees of a circle through which a joint can be moved.

RBC: See "red blood cells".

RCSW: See "Registered Clinical Social Worker".

RDS: See "respiratory distress syndrome".

reactive schizophrenia: A type of schizophrenia attributed primarily to strong predisposing and/or precipitating environmental factors; usually of rapid onset and brief duration, with the affected individual appearing well both before and after the schizophrenic episode. Differentiating this condition from process schizophreniform is generally considered more important in Europe than in this country. Schizophreniform disorder is conceptually similar.

receiver: A component of a hearing aid that changes the amplified electrical signal back into an amplified sound signal.

receptive aphasia: Impairment of receptive language due to a disorder of the central nervous system. See also "sensory aphasia".

receptive eye problems: Disorders associated with the receiving structures of the eye, that is, the retina or the optic nerve.

receptive language: Language that is spoken or written by others and received by an individual. The receptive language skills are listening and reading.

receptive language disorders: Difficulties in comprehending what others say.

recipient: Any state or political subdivision (or instrumentality thereof), any public or private agency, institution, organization, or other entity, or any person that receives federal financial assistance directly or through another recipient (including any successor, assignee, or transferee of a recipient, but not the ultimate beneficiary of the assistance). This term includes persons and entities applying to be recipients.

record: Any information recorded in any way, including handwriting, print, tape, film, microfilm, and microfiche.

recoupment: A formal request for refund of money paid by CHAMPUS in error.

recruitment: As in "loudness recruitment", an abnormally rapid growth in the sensation of loudness.

red blood cells (RBC): The cells in the blood that carry oxygen to parts of the body where it is needed.

reflex: 1. Habitual way of responding; ordinarily refers to inborn tendency for a part of the body to respond to a stimulus in a certain way; posture or movement not controlled by the individual. 2. In reference to audiological evaluations, a reflexive response is the early developmental responses to auditory stimuli typically noted 0 to 3 months of age.

refractive problems: Visual problems that occur when the refractive structures of the eye fail to properly focus light rays on the retina.

regarded as having an impairment: When a person has: (1) A physical or mental impairment that does not substantially limit major life activities, but is treated by service agencies or professionals as constituting such a limitation; (2) A physical or a mental impairment that substantially limits major life activities only as a result of the attitudes of others toward such impairment; or (3) None of the impairments defined above, but is treated by service agencies or professionals as having such an impairment.

Regional Resource Centers (RRC): Federally funded programs responsible for training and technical assistance to staff who serve school age children with handicaps.

Registered Clinical Social Worker (RCSW): Such licensure often requires at least two years supervised experiences with a direct client caseload. See also "ACSW" and "LCSW".

registered nurse (RN): A nurse who, after completing extensive training and passing a State examination, is qualified to perform complete nursing services.

regular classroom: Here your child attends the class and school he would attend if he did not have a handicapping condition, working right along with his non-handicapped peers. Consultants, therapists, itinerant teachers, special educators, etc., can provide special instruction in the regular classroom to your child.

regular education initiative: A perspective that places a major portion of the responsibility for educating all mildly and some moderately disabled students with general education.

regular food: A nutrition term used when describing dietary instructions. Table food. This texture of food is designed for children with normal chewing and swallowing abilities and/or those who have minimal oral motor development.

rehabilitation: Refers to the process (or programs) aimed at teaching individuals who are recently handicapped the fundamental skills for independence.

rehabilitation engineering: See "rehabilitation technology".

rehabilitation technology: Refers to the research in and development of equipment and devices that will enable the blind/visually impaired person to gain access and opportunities that are readily available to the general population. Examples include: (A) speech synthesizers for computers; (B) TV displays that enlarge the print on the computer screen; (C) talking appliances like scales, cash registers and blood-sugar monitoring devices.

rehearsal strategies: Refers to plans or tactics for practicing material to be learned.

reinforcement: Letting a child know they have done well. Praising, giving them gifts, letting them do something special, etc.

rejected claim: One where services were not payable due to non-covered diagnosis, ineligibility of patient, etc.

related services: Services that must be necessary for the child to benefit from special education. May include transportation and supportive services such as speech pathology, audiology, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, early identification and assessment, counseling, interpreters for persons with hearing impairments, medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes, school health services, social work services in schools, and parent counseling and training.

remainderman: The persons or institutions who will receive the remainder (what is left over) of the trust after the income beneficiary has died and the trust ends.

remedial readers: Youngsters who need particular assistance in reading instruction; a term that was used earlier for youngsters who might now be known as learning disabled.

remediation approach: Pertaining to instruction that focuses on the gaps or deficiencies in a student's repertoire of skills.

renal solute load: Solutes or waste products that must be excreted by the kidney.

replicate: To repeat. In research, to duplicate an experiment.

Research and Training Centers (R & T): Thirty-six centers funded by NIDRR to provide research, training and technical assistance to consumers with disabilities and service providers. Two centers focus on the needs of children and youth with emotional handicaps. These two centers are also supported by NIMH and are located at the University of Florida and at Portland State University in Oregon.

research design: The procedural plan for undertaking a research study.

residential school program: An approved, specialized educational program provided in a facility that a child attends 24 hours a day.

residential treatment: Live-in facilities that provide treatment and care for children with emotional disturbances who require continuous medication and/or supervision or relief from environmental stresses.

residual: The phase of an illness that occurs after remission of the florid symptoms or the full syndrome. Examples: The residual states of infantile autism, attention deficit disorder and schizophrenia.

residual disability: A disability which prevents an insured either from engaging in some of the duties of his or her usual occupation or from engaging in his or her occupation on a full-time basis.

residual hearing: The auditory abilities of an individual with a hearing impairment.

residual schizophrenia: A condition manifested by persons with signs of schizophrenia who, following a psychotic schizophrenic episode, are no longer psychotic.

resilience: The tendency for a child, adult, or family to rebound from stressful circumstances or events and resume usually activity, accord, and success. Resilience is the power of recovery.

resonance: The modification of the voice after it leaves the larynx. The voice is modified by the cavities inside the mouth, nose, and pharynx (the throat).

resource room: A room separate from the regular classroom in which children with disabilities can receive specialized assistance to reinforce and supplement the regular class instruction. The amount of time that students spend each day in the resource room varies according to individual needs, and the remainder of the day is spent in his or her regular classroom.

resource teacher: A specialist who works with children with disabilities and acts as a consultant to other teachers, providing materials and methods to help children who are having difficulty within the regular classroom. The resource teacher may work from a centralized resource room within a school where appropriate materials are housed.

resources: Internal resources are the strengths, capabilities and motivations of the child and family. External resources are the formal (professionals and agencies), informal (ministers, support groups, volunteers), and natural (friends, relatives) network of the child and family.

respiratory distress: Ineffective lung-gas exchange results which leads to insufficient oxygenation of the blood. Common disorder occurring in premature infants shortly after birth. See also "respiratory distress syndrome (RSD)".

respiratory distress syndrome (RDS): A breathing disorder of premature babies. It is among the most frequent cause of death in the premature infant as well as the most common illness in many neonatal intensive care units. The usual signs are labored, grunting respirations and poor oxygenation of body tissues in room air. Infants with severe RDS are at risk for developing a chronic lung disorder known as bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD). It's also referred to as "hyaline membrane disease" (HMD).

respite: Temporary care given to an individual for the purpose of providing a period of relief to the primary caregivers. Respite is used to decrease stress in the homes of persons with disabilities or handicaps, thereby increasing caregivers' overall effectiveness.

responding: How a child follows directions and acts towards objects and people.

reticular activating system: The area of the brain stem that is in the control of awareness and attention.

retina: The light-sensitive cells in the eye that transmit images to the brain via the optic nerve.

retinal detachment: A condition that occurs when the retina is separated from the choroid and sclera.

retinitis pigmentosa (RP): A hereditary, slowly degenerative disease of the retina, beginning in childhood and resulting in serious impairment of vision or possible blindness in middle age.

retinoblastoma: A malignant tumor in the retina.

retinopathy of prematurity (ROP): Injury to the blood vessels of retina due to oxygenation changes, asphyxia, shock, and other stresses at the time of birth. There is a higher incidence in the extremely low birth weight babies. Previously known as retrolental fibroplasia.

retiree: A former member of the uniformed services who is entitled to retired, retainer or equivalent pay based on duty.

retrocochlear deafness: Hearing loss resulting from a lesion behind the cochlea.

retrolental fibroplasia (RLF): Scar tissue formation behind the lens of the eye, preventing light rays from reaching the retina. The result of administering excessive oxygen to premature infants.

retropathy of prematurity: A term now used for retrolental fibroplasia. See also "retrolental fibroplasia (RLF)".

reverse integration: A process of integrating traditionally segregated special education classrooms with typical peers. This activity is generally done as a preliminary step to integration of students with disabilities into typical classrooms.

revocable trust: A revocable trust means that the items placed in the trust can be taken out of the trust. This type of trust is taxed as part of the estate of the grantors.

Rh incompatibility: A situation in which the mother has Rh-negative blood and the fetus has Rh-positive blood. May result in birth defects.

rheumatic heart disease: A condition that ensues from rheumatic fever wherein the muscles, valves, or lining of the heart may become inflamed and then permanently damaged.

RhoGam: An anti-Rh gamma globulin medication used to combat incompatibility in blood type between a mother and her fetus. See also "anti-Rh gamma globulin".

rhythm: The rate and timing of speech. Also referred to by scientists as "prosody".

rider: An addition to an insurance policy that becomes a part of the contract and which expands or limits the benefits otherwise payable. Examples are the accidental death benefit and the waiver of premium for disability benefit riders. Also called an endorsement.

right against unreasonable search and seizure: A constitutional right you have as a citizen of the United States in which no one can come to your house and legally take something you own without permission from a judge.

right to due process: A constitutional right you have as a citizen of the United States in which you cannot be put in prison for a long time or have your property taken away from you without having a chance to defend yourself in court.

right to jury trial: A constitutional right you have as a citizen of the United States in which you have the right to a hearing from a grand jury (if you are arrested) before you are sent to trial. If you must go to trial, it must be held quickly, it must be held near where you live, witnesses must be brought against you, and you can have a lawyer to help you.

righting reactions: Automatic response of a person's body to assume a normal posture and preserve balance when moving from one position to another.

rights: Those freedoms or liberties that we all have coming to us because we are human, live in the U.S., and because of certain laws. Separate sections (see these entries for further definitions) are human rights, civil rights, and legal rights.

rigidity: Not being flexible or bending; stiff; hard.

Ritalin: A mild central nervous system stimulant often prescribed by doctors to help in controlling a child's behavior. Possible side-effects are loss of appetite and weight, and lethargy.

RLF: See "retrolental fibroplasia".

RN: See "registered nurse".

Rochester method: A communication system used with deaf children that combines fingerspelling with speech.

role playing: The process of letting students rehearse and practice behaviors they are to learn, often pertaining to social behaviors.

ROM: See "range of motion".

Rood approach: Emphasis on controlled sensory stimulation, the use of ontogenetic sequence, and the need to demand a purposeful response by the use of activity.

rooting response: A food-seeking movement which occurs in response to tactile input presented on the lips or cheeks characterized by mouth opening and head turning in the direction of the touch; occurs until approximately 4 to 5 months of age; stronger just before feeding and when the infant is in a position generally associated with feeding.

ROP: See "retinopathy of prematurity".

rotary jaw movements: Activity used in chewing which increases from 15 to 36 months of age; reflects the integration of up/down, forward/backward, lateral-diagonal, diagonal-rotary, and circular-rotary movements of the jaw.

rote skill: Habit performance, without meaning, in a mechanical way.

RRC: See "Regional Resource Centers".

rubber spoon: Used for presenting foods to older children and adults whose feeding is interfered with by a strong bite reflex.

rubella: Also known as German or three day measles. A mild infection in children, but a major tragedy in pregnant women which can cause miscarriage or stillbirth, severe birth defects including blindness, deafness, and damage to heart, brain, and other organs. Childhood immunizations will protect persons from this disease. See "Measles, Mumps, Rubella" for immunization schedule.

rubella: German or three day measles. Rubella is usually mild, but it can seriously harm a baby whose mother is infected early in her pregnancy.

S

S/N: See "signal to noise ratio".

SAT: See "Scholastic Aptitude Test" or "Standardized Achievement Test".

satellite center: A public or private nonprofit entity which (A) (i) is affiliated with one or more university affiliated programs; (ii) functions as a community or regional extension of such university affiliated program or programs in the delivery of services to persons with developmental disabilities and their families, who reside in geographical areas where adequate services are not otherwise available; and (iii) may engage in the activities described in the definition for "university affiliated program"; or (B) is affiliated with one or more university affiliated programs and which provides for at least (i) interdisciplinary training for personnel concerned with the provision of direct or indirect services to persons with developmental disabilities and their families; and (ii) dissemination of findings related to the provision of services to persons with developmental disabilities and their families.

satiety: A feeling of fulfillment determined by satisfying hunger. Hunger and satiety are important for maintaining an adequate nutritional supply for the body. Diseases or abnormal functioning of the brain may affect these aspects of a person's diet.

SBVI: See "Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired".

SCA: See "sickle-cell anemia".

scales of independent behavior: A formal, standard assessment instrument for evaluating adaptive behavior.

schioaffective disorder: A depressive or manic syndrome that precedes or develops concurrently with psychotic symptoms incompatible with an affective disorder. Includes some symptoms characteristic of schizophrenia and other symptoms seen in major affective disorders.

schizoid personality disorder: Manifested by shyness, oversensitivity, social withdrawal, frequent daydreaming, avoidance of close competitive relationships and eccentricity. Persons with this disorder often react to disturbing experiences with apparent detachment and are unable to express hostility and ordinary aggressive feelings.

schizophrenia: A serious mental disorder characterized by verbal incoherence, severely impaired interpersonal relations, disturbance in thought processes, cognitive deficits, and inappropriate or blunted affect. The person may also exhibit hallucinations or delusions.

schizophreniform disorder: Clinical features are the same as seen in schizophrenia, but lasting less than six months and longer than one week. This disorder is believed to have different correlates than schizophrenia, include a better prognosis. See also "reactive schizophrenia" and "schioaffective disorder".

schizotypal personality disorder: The essential features are various oddities of thinking, perception communication, and behavior not severe enough to meet the criteria for schizophrenia. No single feature is invariably present. The disturbance in thinking may be expressed in magical thinking, ideas of reference or paranoid ideation. Perceptual disturbances may include recurrent illusions, depersonalization or derealization. Often there are marked peculiarities in communication; concepts may be expressed unclearly or oddly, using words deviatnly, but never to the point of behavioral manifestation include social isolation and constricted or inappropriate affect that interferes with rapport in face-to-face interaction.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT): A college entrance examination taken by high school seniors. See also "Standardized Achievement Test".

school phobia: An extreme fear of going to school and matters related to school. An anxiety about leaving home and family members may be a related cause.

school psychologist: A trained professional in testing and mental health and/or psychological services specific to the school environment. They are trained to assess children in academic, social, and behavioral areas. They are the only school personnel with appropriate training for giving intelligence tests like the Stanford Binet or the Wechsler. Besides doing evaluations, school psychologists may develop behavior modification programs, make specific academic recommendations, or provide one-on-one or group counseling for children.

school social worker: A social worker specifically trained to work in a school environment.

School Transition to Employment Partnership (STEP): A job training program for eligible students (handicapped, economically disadvantaged, dropouts/potential dropouts/academically disadvantaged, and those with demonstrated barriers to employment, e.g., single parents, adjudicated offenders, etc.) that includes: 1) instruction of the competencies of the employability curriculum, 2) work experiences, on-the-job training, and try-out employment funded through the Job Training Partnership Act, 3) targeted jobs tax credit for employers' training elibile youth, and 4) supportive employment training services provided to students or employers through Special Education, Vocational Education, Vocational Rehabilitation or Social Services. STEP may also include other cooperative education programs, prevocational training programs, special education assistance, and work experience programs designed for students who are eligible for STEP. LEA's participating in the STEP program must be approved by the Office of Adult, Vocational, & Technical Education and the Department of Labor's Job Training Partnership Office.

scientific method: A method of investigating questions that systematically approaches their study in order to obtain objective results.

scoliosis: Curvature of the spine.

scooper bowl and/or plate: This bowel and/or plate provides a raised rim to help guide food into the spoon. The suction ring on the bottom keeps the bowel in place.

screening: Any rapid, preliminary identification of children who may have a developmental problem, to see if they need further comprehensive testing. Screening areas are usually separated according to skills, personality, aptitude, etc.

SCT: See "sickle-cell trait".

SDIB: See "South Dakota Industries for the Blind".

SE: See "supported employment".

SEA: State Education Agency.

secondary school level: The educational level, not beyond grade twelve, at which secondary education is provided as determined under state law.

Section 504: A part of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. This section states that no program or activity receiving federal funds can exclude, deny benefit to, or discriminate against any person on the basis of handicap. It also requires access for people who are handicapped to all public buildings. Also known as 504.

SED: See "Serious Emotional Disturbance/Disorder".

segregated educational facilities: Educational facilities that are separate from the mainstream placements of nonhandicapped youngsters, often termed "special schools".

seizure disorders: A seizure is characterized by involuntary movement or a change in consciousness or behavior. These are symptoms of underlying disorders of the brain. Electrical impulses usually move along a nerve pathway in an organized fashion. A seizure occurs when bursts of unorganized electrical impulses interfere with normal brain function. Seizures may be classified by cause, by area of the brain involved, or by clinical symptoms.

selective attention: Attention that often does not focus on centrally important tasks or information.

self esteem: A person's feelings of self-worth. (Think of self esteem as the picture of yourself that you have in your head. Now think of how that picture would change if you didn't always understand what was said, if you failed a test because you misunderstood the directions, etc.)

self-advocacy: Representing one's own rights and interests and seeking solutions to a problem by oneself. This form of advocacy is the goal of all other forms of advocacy.

self-care skills: Skills related to hygiene, feeding, dressing, and generally taking care of oneself.

self-contained special education classroom: 1. A separate classroom where special students spend the majority of their school day, while often being integrated with their nondisabled peers whenever possible, such as in nonacademically-oriented classes and on the playground. 2. According to SD Rules, a self-contained program is: A specialized instructional environment for eligible children in need of special education or special education and related services who require intensive instructional procedures.

self-fulfilling prophecy: The philosophy that a person will perform based on expectations demonstrated by those around him/her (or will become what they are labeled as being).

self-help skills: Skills and performance of daily personal care, with or without adaptive equipment, such as dressing, washing, toileting, etc.

self-limitations: Limitations a person puts on him/herself.

semantics: The component of language most concerned with the meaning and understanding of language.

senile dementia: A chronic, progressive dementia associated with generalized atrophy of the brain with the death of neurons due to unknown causes, although there are several promising theories under study (e.g., autoimmunity, slow virus, cholinergic deficiency). It is not due to aging per se, but may be a late form of Alzheimer's disease. Deterioration may range from minimum to severe. It must be carefully separated from reversible brain syndrome, resulting from many causes. In DSM-III, it is listed as primarily degenerative dementia, senile onset.

sensorimotor: A term applied to the combination of the input of sensations and the output of motor activity. The motor activity reflects what is happening to the sensory organs such as the visual, auditory, tactual and kinesthetic sensations. Also referred to as "perceptual motor".

sensorineural deafness/hearing loss: A type of hearing impairment that is caused by damage in the inner ear or nerve pathways to the brain (cochlear hair cells or auditory nerve damage). Certain sounds are heard less distinctly than others, causing distortion and reduced understanding of speech. The aging process, heredity, birth defects, certain drugs, head injury, tumors, and exposure to loud noise can all lead to this type of hearing loss. While this kind of hearing loss is usually not medically correctable, people with sensorineural hearing loss can often be helped by using a hearing aid or other amplification device.

sensory: Relating to the various sensory systems: tactile, kinesthetic, olfactory, visual, auditory, gustatory, vestibular.

sensory aphasia: Inability to understand the meaning of written, spoken, or tactile speech symbols because of disease or injury to the auditory and visual brain centers. Also referred to as "receptive aphasia".

sensory awareness: Ability to receive stimuli from the environment; visual, auditory, tactual, olfactory, taste.

sensory development: Describes a condition in which one or more of the senses have developed in their effectiveness to respond to stimuli. Refers to development of skill and performance in perceiving and differentiating external and internal stimuli, including tactile, kinesthetic, proprioceptive, visual, auditory, and vestibular stimulation.

sensory disorders or impairments: Abnormal functioning of one or more of the five receptive pathways (vision, auditory, olfactory, tactile, taste). Such a condition may be present from birth or may develop at any time during life as the result of injury or disease.

sensory integration: Neurologic processes which enable one to effectively interpret and use sensory input. The organizational process of the brain to make "sense" out of environmental information is coordinated with information from the body and past experiences to produce an adequate adaptive response.

sensory modality: Sensory modality refers to any one of the five sensory avenues for receiving information: seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling.

sensory motor integration: The ability to respond positively to sensory-motor treatment programs because kinesthetic, vestibular, and tactile stimulation affect the brain stem and enhance critical functions.

sensory seizure: A seizure that is characterized primarily by visual, auditory, gustatory, olfactory, or emotional sensations.

sensory stimulation: Provide input to the different sensory systems to be received, differentiated and interpreted.

sensory-neural: Pertaining to a sensory nerve.

sensory-neural hearing loss: A hearing impairment caused by lesions of the hair cells in the cochlea and the neurons of the auditory part of cranial nerve VIII.

sepsis: Bacterial infection spread throughout the bloodstream; also called blood poisoning.

Sequenced Inventory of Communication Development (SICD): A testing instrument which assesses receptive language skills or what the child understands. A receptive communication age is provided by the results of the test. It also assesses his/her expressive language skills or how a child expresses/communicates his/her thoughts. An expressive communication age is also provided by the results of the test.

sequencing: 1. As it relates to memory; storage and retrieval of information requiring a specified order of input and recall; i.e., counting, days of the week, months of the year, words in a sentence. 2. Knowing and carrying through procedures in a particular order.

sequential course of study: An integrated series of courses which are directly related to the educational and occupational skills preparation of individuals for jobs, or preparation for postsecondary education.

Serious Emotional Disturbance/Disorder (SED): When a child or adolescent exhibits behavioral, emotional and/or social impairment that consequently disrupts their academic and/or developmental progress, family and/or interpersonal relationships, and has impaired functioning that has continued for at least one year, or has an impairment of short duration and high severity. Also see "Emotional Disturbance (ED)".

service coordinator: Someone who acts as a coordinator of an infant's or toddler's services and works in partnership with the family and providers of special programs.

Service to the Blind and Visually Impaired (SBVI): A division within the South Dakota Department of Human Services, is a designated state administrated agency serving adult blind and visually impaired adults in the areas of employment and independent living.

service-based: Requires appropriate education (a higher standard than necessary services - Part B language).

services: 1. Work done or duty performed for another or others. 2. The act of giving assistance or advantage to another and the result of this. 3. Benefits. 4. The services (therapies, instruction, treatment) given to a child with special needs.

severe and profound multiple disorders: A generic classification of disorders that involve physical, sensory, intellectual, and/or social-interpersonal performance deficits beyond three standard deviations below the interindividual and/or intraindividual mean on the measures being recorded. These deficits are not limited to any given setting, but are evident in all environmental settings and often involve deficits in several areas of performance. Etiologies are more identifiable at this level of functioning, but exact cause(s) may be unknown in a large number of cases. Individuals with functional disorders at this level require significantly altered environments with regard to care, treatment, and accommodation.

severe handicap: See "severe and profound multiple disorders".

sex linked condition: A condition that is passed from parents to child through a sex chromosome. Mothers are carriers of the condition without having it themselves.

Examples include muscular dystrophy and hemophilia.

sex-role stereotyping: Attributing behaviors, abilities, interests, values, and roles to a person or group of persons on the basis of their sex.

sexual abuse: A form of mistreatment involving sexual mistreatment, such as incest, assault, or sexual exploitation.

SGA: See "small for gestational age" or "Substantial Gainful Work Activity".

shakes: A nutrition term used when describing dietary instructions. Ultra-thick liquids that do not flow and could be fed by using a spoon. For example, pudding 1/4 cup with 2 T. milk. Used for patients with severe dysphagia.

shared responsibility: The concept that regular education and special education both have responsibilities, in a partnership manner, for the best education of students with disabilities.

short attention span: An inability to focus attention on a task for a sustained period, often more than a few seconds or minutes.

short bowel syndrome: Lack of major portions of the small bowel.

short stature: Height/length less than the 5th percentile for age.

shunt: A tube that is surgically inserted between two blood vessels, two spaces, or two organs. Its purpose is to drain excess fluid and relieve pressure. Shunts are most commonly placed between the ventricles (cavities) of the brain and other organs such as the abdomen. An example is the ventriculo-peritoneal shunt used to drain cerebrospinal fluid in hydrocephalus.

siblings: Brothers and sisters of the child, in or out of the natural home.

SICD: See "Sequenced Inventory of Communication Development".

sickle-cell anemia (SCA): An inherited disease that has a profound effect on the function and structure of red blood cells.

sickle-cell trait (SCT): Refers to a person who is a carrier of the sickle-cell anemia, but does not actually suffer the disease effects.

sight conservation: A point of view advocating restricted use of the eye to save remaining vision.

sign: An objective manifestation of a pathological condition. Signs are observed by the examiner rather than reported by the individual.

sign language: A form of manual communication in which words and concepts are represented by hand positions, finger spelling, body language, and facial expressions. Sign language includes both American Sign Language (ASL) and Signing Exact English.

sign systems: Approaches to communication that are different from sign language in that they attempt to produce equivalents or oral language through manual and visual means.

signal to noise ratio (S/N): A ratio of the signal (message) level to the noise (competition) level; the signal level minus the noise level.

significant others: Anyone who has an impact on the child's/family's life.

Signing Exact English: A form of sign language used by people who are not verbal or are hearing impaired. See also "sign language".

simple phobia: Characterized by persistent irrational fears of a specific object, activity, or situation.

simultaneous communication: Use of oral and manual communication modes at the same time.

single parent: An individual who is unmarried or legally separated from a spouse and has a minor child or children for which the parent has either custody or joint custody.

skill: Something a person or child does well, or the ability to do something well.

SLL: Software Lending Library.

small for gestational age (SGA): Low birth weight for a gestational age calculated from the last normal menstrual period and corroborated by clinical assessment of the age of the infant at birth; sometimes described as growth retarded. Weight is less than 10th percentile acceptable norms for the particular gestational age.

SMHRCY: See "State Mental Health Representatives for Children and Youth".

SMI: See "Supplementary Medical Insurance".

Snellen test: A test of visual acuity.

social insurance supplement policy: A medical expense policy which provides benefits to supplement the benefits available from a specified government health insurance program. Such a policy is available exclusively to those persons eligible for benefits under a particular government program.

Social Security Administration (SSA): A federal agency that administers social security and disability benefits.

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI): A social insurance program based on contributions made by working individuals. This program pays benefits to these individuals if they become disabled and can no longer participate in substantial gainful activity (when they can not work). Information is available from the Social Security Office. Eligibility criteria is different for blind/visually impaired individuals than for persons with other types of disabilities. SSDI is a Title II federal program administered by the Social Security Administration.

Social Security Disability (SSD): Social Security Disability eligibility is based on a "benefit package" from employment, no financial criteria has to be met. A person receiving SSD will qualify for Medicare coverage after receiving 24 months of SSD. SSD eligibility is determined by the Social Security Administration.

Social Services (SS): See "Department of Social Services" for definition.

social skills: Skills related to social interactions with peers.

social system: A grouping of people with a defined set of purposes, roles, and expectations.

social work services: To support the family in its social context so that it can provide the child an optimum environment for development.

social worker: A trained professional who can provide assistance in completing forms, family counseling, advocacy, help to secure financial assistance, match families with needed community support, coordination of services, and consultation with other programs.

social worker: A professional trained to provide services to individuals, families and groups.

socially maladjusted: Having extreme difficulty dealing appropriately with other people.

sociopath: A term sometimes used to describe persons with extreme disregard for and hostility toward society. A person who is sociopathic is aggressively antisocial and shows no remorse.

soft bite spoon: This is a plastic coated stainless steel spoon which protects the young child's gums during feeding.

soft signs: A term used by neurologists to indicate that a child performs in a slightly different way than the average child in certain central nervous system functions. These differences may be qualitative or quantitative. The data relating soft signs to learning disabilities are more questionable than the data relating hard signs to learning disabilities.

solid seat inserts: A seating system usually begins with an insert. It distributes pressure over as broad a sitting surface as possible, to maximize the base of support and to minimize pressure.

SOMPA: System of Multicultural Pluralistic Assessment.

sonicguide: An electronic mobility device for people who are blind, which is worn on the head, emits ultrasound, and converts reflections from objects into audible noise.

sound field: An area containing sound waves, such as a sound-treated room.

sound-symbol association: The ability to recognize sounds and their sources and to recognize the sounds that go with letters. Sound-symbol association is a prerequisite to reading.

South Dakota Industries for the Blind (SDIB): A sheltered workshop which provides employment for the blind/visually impaired persons. It is located in Sioux Falls, SD.

spastic hemiplegia: Damage to the telencephalon resulting in stiffness of two extremities on the same side. There may be involvement of all four extremities with one side more involved than the other. This is referred to as bilateral hemiplegia. Some physicians and therapists may refer to this as spastic quadriplegia.

spastic quadriplegia: Involvement of all four extremities. Damage to telencephalon resulting in a poverty of movement due to increased stiffness equal in all four extremities equally.

spasticity: Increased muscle tone (hypertonic), involuntary resistance of weak muscle caused by passive range of motion followed by sudden relaxation of muscle, associated with exaggeration of reflexes. Causes stiffness, awkward movements, and loss of voluntary muscle control.

spatial orientation: The ability to organize space in terms of the individual relating his physical self to the environment with reference to distance, size, position and direction.

SpecEd: See "special education".

special assistance: Specially designed instruction, teachers' aides to support classroom or laboratory instruction, taped texts, interpreters or other effective methods of making orally delivered materials available to students with hearing impairments, readers in libraries for students with visual impairments, classroom equipment adapted for use by students with manual impairments, and other similar services and actions, as well as facility modifications.

special education classroom: See "resource room" or "self-contained classroom".
special education coordinator: The person in charge of special education programs at the school, district, or state level.

special education (SPED, Speced): Instruction specifically designed to meet the unique needs of a student with a disability, including classroom instruction, instruction in physical education, home instruction, and instruction in hospitals and institutions. See also "special education programs and services".

special education programs/services: Programs, services, or specially designed instruction (offered at no cost to families) for children over 3 years old with special needs who are found eligible for such services. These include special learning methods or materials in the regular classroom, and special classes and programs if the learning or physical problems are serious.

special education teacher: An individual trained as an educator of children who have mental and physical impairments of elementary and secondary school age.

special needs children: 1. A general term used to label children who do not meet educational expectations and require services and resources that are different from those needed by "normal" youngsters. 2. A term used to describe a child who has disabilities or is at risk for developing disabilities who requires special services or treatment in order to progress.

Special Needs Trust: Also known as a Spendthrift, Luxury, Discretionary, or Supplementary Trust. It may be created as a Living Trust during the life of the person (grantor) or as a Testamentary Trust after the death of the person (grantor). It is designed to provide for the supplementary needs of the disabled person over and above that being given by the government. The trust funds are not to supplant or replace government programs. Once the basics of food, shelter, medical care, education, etc., are met by the government, the trust can provide additional funds to enhance the quality of life. The trustees should never give more funds than would cause a loss or reduction of government benefits unless there is an emergency. The trust is not in the name of the child. The disbursement of funds is left to the "discretion" of the trustee/successor trustee. This type of trust is not considered an asset for determining government benefits. Only those funds which are actually disbursed directly to the child will count as earned or unearned income.

special populations: Those individuals identified within any one of the following groups of persons: economically disadvantaged, academically disadvantaged, limited English proficiency, handicapped as defined in the Education of the Handicapped Act, males in traditionally female occupations, females in traditionally male occupations, and criminal offenders.

special schools: A general term applied to segregated educational placements that only children with handicaps attend.

specialized instruction: An early intervention service that includes the activities that promote the acquisition of skills in a variety of developmental areas, including cognitive processes and social interaction. Also includes instructional support to the child, family, and pertinent members of the child's environment for enhancing the child's developmental progress.

specific learning disability: A disorder in understanding or using spoken or written language, characterized by imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations. The term includes students with conditions such as perceptual handicaps, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia and developmental aphasia. The term does not include students who have learning problems which are primarily the result of visual, hearing, or motor handicaps; mental retardation; or environmental, cultural or economic disadvantage. See also "learning disability".

SPED: See "special education".

speech: The mechanical production of sounds and words through the voice.

speech and language disorders: Difficulties in communicating effectively.

speech audiometry: Measurement of overall performance in hearing, understanding, and responding to speech for a general assessment of hearing and an estimate of the degree of practical handicap; earphones, bone oscillators and sound field may be employed.

speech detection threshold: The faintest level at which a listener can hear the sound of speech 50% of the time.

speech disorder/impairment: Disorganization of speech. The inability to produce certain elements, faulty, or distorted performance or functions in particular sounds, letters, words or gestures are outside one's power or produced or perceived as imperfect. Examples of speech impairments are stuttering, impaired articulation, language impairment, or voice impairment.

speech therapist: An individual who has been trained to work with others in speech improvement and correction. See also "speech-language pathologist".

speech-language pathologist: A professional educated in the study of human communication, its development, and its disorders. They conduct screenings, diagnosis and treatments for people with communication disorders. The speech pathologist may work with a number of different types of problems, including articulation errors, language deficits, vocabulary, pitch or voice problems, and alternative communication methods for individuals who are nonverbal.

speech/language therapy: 1. A planned program to improve and correct speech and/or language or communication problems in people who are not thought to be able to improve without such help. 2. In reference to Part H and early intervention: instructional support to the child, family, and pertinent members of the child's environment for enhancing the child's production of speech (including developmental prerequisites) and communication skills.

speechreading: The process of understanding a spoken message through the observation of a speaker's face. This method may be used by someone who has good residual vision; however, only 30-40% of spoken English can be understood using this method alone. Speechreading also involves use of cues such as gestures, facial expressions and situational clues. Also referred to as lip reading.

spina bifida: Also known as myelomeningocele, is a birth defect of the backbone, often called "open spine". In children with this defect, backbone never closes completely. It can cause many other conditions such as mental retardation, lack of control of the leg muscles, lack of bowel and bladder control and/or curvature of the spine. The three types of spina bifida (from mild to more severe) are Spina Bifida Occulta, Meningocele, and Myelomeningocele.

spina bifida cystica: A malformation of the spinal column in which a tumorlike sack is produced on the infant's back.

spina bifida meningocele: A cystic swelling or tumor like sack that contains spinal fluid, but no nerve tissue.

spina bifida myelomeningocele: A cystic swelling or tumorlike sack that contains both spinal fluid and nerve tissue.

spina bifida occulta: A mild type of spina bifida in which there is an opening in one or more of the vertebrae (bones) of the spinal column without apparent damage to the spinal cord. Approximately 40% of all Americans may have spina bifida occulta, but because they experience little or no symptoms, very few of them ever know they have it. spinal cord: That part of the central nervous system contained within the vertebral column.

spinal meningitis: An inflammation of the membranes of the spinal cord.

spinal-cord injury: An injury in which the spinal cord is traumatized or transected.

spitting up: Small quantities of stomach content into the mouth.

splinter skill: Is a particular perceptual or motor act that is performed in isolation and does not generalize to other areas of performance. If hard neurological damage or age of the learner prevent development of the sensory input system, it becomes necessary to teach splinter skills.

spondylitis of adolescence: A form of rheumatoid arthritis that affects the entire body rather than isolated joints or areas.

sponsor: The member of the family who is or was in one of the uniformed services. CHAMPUS/CHAMPVA uses the Social Security Number of VA file number of the sponsor to identify claims.

spontaneous: Something a person does without being shown or told.

spouse advocate: A person who meets the advocacy needs of an impaired person he or she marries and without whose advocacy someone else would have to function as advocate to the person.

SS: Social Services. See "Department of Social Services" for definition.

SSA: See "Social Security Administration".

SSD: See "Social Security Disability".

SSDI: See "Social Security Disability Insurance".

SSI: See "Supplemental Security Income".

standard deviation: A statistical measure of the amount an individual score deviates from the average.

Standardized Achievement Test (SAT): A measure that is administered and scored by uniform objective procedures and for which norms have been established (prescribed routine to assure that the process is consistent) so the scores of anyone completing the test can be compared to the norms. See also "Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)".

standing board/system: 1. A rectangular box-like device that enables an individual who cannot stand without the support to bear weight on his legs and feet. 2. A standing "system" may include pads and devices for supporting various body parts.

Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale: A standardized psychological test to assess intelligence. Performance is based on problem solving and developmental tasks. Originally the Binet-Simon Scales, were revised and standardized by Lewis Terman at Stanford University.

stapedectomy: A surgical process that replaces defective stapes in the ear with a prosthetic device.

State Board: A board designated or created by State law as the sole State agency responsible for the administration of vocational education, or for supervision of the administration of vocational education in the State.

State Mental Health Representatives for Children and Youth

(SMHRCY): The professional people in each state responsible for the planning, development and management of public child mental health services. A division of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors.

static: No movement.

statistical relativity: A method of labeling that defines deviance based on the frequency of a behavior or characteristic. An average frequency is calculated, and a person's status is compared with that average.

stature: Height. Distance from the crown of the head to the bottom of the feet when the person is standing.

status epilepticus: A situation in which two major epileptic seizures occur, one right after the other. In such a case, immediate emergency room attention is required. Status epilepticus happens rarely.

status offense: Noncriminal behavior of a child such as running away, truancy, and curfew violation, that can result in juvenile court action.

stenosis: A narrowing in the diameter of a body canal.

stereotyped movement disorders: Conditions that are characterized by abnormal gross motor behaviors (tics).

stereotypical behavior: Repetitive actions that children who have autism tend to do.

sterilization: The process of making an individual unable to reproduce, usually accomplished surgically.

stiffness: A more descriptive word than "tone". It includes active (neurological gamma and alpha systems) and passive (connective tissue and muscle flexibility) components.

stigma: An unflattering view of someone associated with the label given to that individual.

stimuli: Objects or interactions used to encourage or stimulate development or growth. Stimuli can be auditory, motor, tactile, visual, etc.

stimulus: That which causes a response.

stoma: A surgical opening in the abdomen that allows drainage of either urine or stool into disposable bags.

strabismus: Crossed eyes (internal) or eyes that look outward (external).

strengths: 1. The unique internal resources (things) of a family/child that include their capabilities and motivations and will assist in their development: i.e., stubborn, good gross motor skills, cognitive intactness. 2. Legal, logical, or moral force.

strep throat: A sore throat caused by streptococcal bacteria. It should be treated for a full ten days with an appropriate antibiotic.

stress: Internal and external factors that interfere with a person's emotional, cognitive, and social functioning.

structural abnormalities: An abnormal feeding pattern; overbite, underbite, cleft lip and/or palate, gum swelling, etc.

stuttering: An interruption in the rhythm of speech characterized by hesitations, repetitions or prolongations of sounds, syllables, words, or phrases, for example: cow...boy, tuh-tuh-tuh-table, or sssun. Stuttering is recognized as a language disorder.

substance abuse: The use of any such agents as alcohol or drugs to the degree that they become significantly detrimental to one's life and health.

substantial gainful work activity (SGA): Performance of significant duties over a reasonable period of time in work for remuneration (wages, salary, etc.) or profit. Used in determining eligibility for SSDI and SSI programs.

substitutions: An articulation error which occurs when the child substitutes one sound for another. The substitution frequently sounds similar to the sound being replaced, or is made in a similar manner.

success rate: The rate measured in percentages of goals/tasks accomplished with a minimum of 75%.

successor trustee: This person(s) takes over the responsibility of managing the trust after the death or legal incompetence of the initial trustee(s).

sucking: A rhythmical method for obtaining liquid and food characterized by the active coordination of small up/down jaw movements, up/down tongue movements, lip approximation, and cheek activity; negative pressure is built up in the oral cavity due to the more closed mouth position.

suckling: An early lick-type of sucking pattern composed of rhythmical forward/backward tongue movements, large rhythmical up/down jaw movements and minimal cheek and lip activity; the tongue moves forward and down as the jaw depresses and moves up and slightly back as the jaw elevates.

suicide: The intentional taking of one's own life.

superego: A term, based on psychoanalytic theory, that refers to the conscience component of one's subconscious.

supination: Turning of the palm or foot upward.

supine position: Lying on one's back, facing upward.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI): A Federal Title XVI income maintenance program administered by the Social Security Administration. To be eligible you must meet certain financial and income requirements and be over 65 years of age, blind or disabled. If you are eligible, you will receive a monthly check, and become automatically eligible for the Medicaid insurance program. Because of meeting the income limits, you are usually eligible for other types of assistance through the Department of Social Services (food stamps, energy assistance, etc.).

Supplementary Medical Insurance (SMI): A health insurance program under Medicaid.

support services: 1. Transportation, financial help, support groups, homemaker services, respite services and other specific services to children and families. 2. Activities and services which contribute to the enhancement of quality in vocational education programs, including activities such as dependent care services and transportation, teacher training, curriculum development, and encouraging the removal of sex stereotyping in vocational education.

supported employment (SE): Vocational training and ongoing support provided to an individual who is working competitively at an integrated job site in the community. Supported employment may be provided for someone who has not yet been employed in an integrated setting; or for persons for whom competitive employment has been interrupted or intermittent as a result of a developmental disability, and who because of their disability need on-going support services to perform such work.

supportive educational environment: A setting in which acoustics, lighting, and teaching styles are adjusted to fit the learner's needs. Examples of a supportive environment for students with hearing impairments would be: carpeting in rooms and hallways, blinds/shades on windows, using acoustical tile on ceilings, keeping noise levels at a minimum (students, heaters, fans, lockers, etc.), using visual aids, keeping class size small, being a good language model for children, making sure auditory equipment works and is utilized, and being an active team member.

supports: Pads, wedges, or other devices used for positioning of specific body parts inserted or attached to the seat, chair, or mobility base.

swivel spoon: This stainless steel spoon has a swivel mechanism. There is a slight drop from the handle to the spoon bowl. The swivel can compensate for lack of control in the wrist, allowing the person to bring the food to the mouth without dumping it.

sybiotic: Emotional disorder believed to be caused by the failure of the child to make a separation or a differentiation of his ego from that of his mother; characterized by difficulty with pronouns and references to himself in the third person, repetition of phrases out of context, and frequently echolalia.

symmetrical: Both sides equal, equal distribution.

symptom: A manifestation of a pathological condition. Although in some uses of the term it is limited to subjective complaints, in common use "symptom" includes objective signs of pathological conditions as well.

symptom severity: A parameter of classification that refers to the degree of deviation from the norm.

synapses: The region of contact between one neuron and another through which nerve impulses are transmitted.

syndrome: A combination of symptoms which occur together and define a disease or disorder.

syntax: The order and way in which words and sequences of words are combined into phrases, clauses, and sentences (rules of grammar).

system coordination and community education activities: Activities that (A) eliminate barriers to access and eligibility for services, supports, and other assistance, (B) enhance systems design and integration including the encouragement of the creation of local case management and information and referral statewide systems, and (C) enhance individual, family and citizen participation and involvement.

systemic: Pertaining to the whole body.

systems advocacy: Influencing social and political systems to bring about change for groups of people. Usually a coalition of people, but sometimes an individual, will seek changes, such as changes in laws, establishing group homes where there have been none, or arranging for the removal of architectural and transportation barriers.

T

T lymphocytes: A type of white blood cell that attacks infections.

tachistoscope: A machine that exposes written material for a short period of time. Practice with such machines is designed to improve rate and span of visual perception of words.

tactile: Sense of touch.

tactile defensiveness: Not being able to tolerate being touched or touching things with texture.

tactile perception: The ability to interpret and give meaning to sensory stimuli that are experienced through the sense of touch.

tactile speech indicator (TSI): A communication device that enables a person who is blind and has good speech to communicate on the telephone.

tactile system: Interpret light touch, pressure, temperature, pain, vibration, and two-point stimuli - through skin/contact receptors.

tactual sign: A form of sign language in which signs are made while individuals face each other and hold hands to feel the movement.

tadoma: A method of speech reading using touch, in which the consumer places thumb on lips of the speaker, with fingers on throat (rarely used).

Tangible Reinforcement Operant Conditioning Audiometry (TROCA):

A way to test a child's hearing by using a tangible item (candy or trinkets) that is pleasing to children as a reinforcer for appropriate responses. The item is presented each time the child presses the button when the sound is heard. See also "Visible Reinforcement Operant Conditioning Audiometry".

TAPP: Technical Assistance to Parent Projects.

TAPS: See "Test of Auditory Perceptual Skills".

tardive dyskinesia: A variable complex of choreiform or athetoid movements developing in patients exposed to antipsychotic drugs. Typical movements include tongue-writhing or protrusion, chewing, lip-puckering, choreiform finger movements, toe and ankle movements, leg-jiggling, or movements of neck, trunk and pelvis. These movements may be either mild or severe and may occur along or in many combinations and permutations.

TASH: See "The Association for the Severely Handicapped".

task: An activity to be done.

task analysis: Technique of examining a particular task to discover each individual part of it and the processes needed to perform it; the process of breaking down a task into small component parts.

TDD: See "Telecommunication Device for the Deaf".

teacher of the visually handicapped: A person trained and able to meet the unique educational needs of blind or visually handicapped children. This person may or may not also be trained in regular or early childhood education.

team: Two or more persons who must coordinate with each other in order to get some task done. They must also interact with and influence each other in order to accomplish that task.

technology education: An applied discipline designed to promote technological literacy which provides knowledge and understanding of the impacts of technology including its organizations, techniques, tools, and skills to solve practical problems and extend human capabilities in areas such as construction, manufacturing, communication, transportation, power, and energy.

telecoil: Circuitry that allows the hearing aid to accept sound conveyed by magnetic signals (as from a telephone receiver and other special listening systems). Such sound is free from acoustic feedback and background noise. A telecoil can be built into a behind-the-ear (BTE) aid, or an in-the-ear (ITE) aid. An in-the-canal (ITC) aid user may find an amplified handset or other telephone modification useful.

Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD): An electronic keyboard device that sends, receives, and prints typed messages over the telephone lines so that individuals with hearing impairments can communicate over the telephone. A telephone number followed by TDD means that an agency or company (or other person who is deaf) has a device for communicating electronically with other deaf individuals.

telephone amplifier: A device that attaches to your phone and makes the voice you hear louder so you can hear it better.

telephone loud ringer: A device that increases the volume and changes the tone of the ring so you can hear it better.

telephone ring signaler: A device that tells you when the phone is ringing by a flashing light signal.

teletypewriter (TTY): A typewriter that converts typed letters into electric signals which are then sent through telephone lines and printed on another typewriter connected to a phone on the other end. This device is used by people with hearing disorders.

tellatouch: A portable typewriter-like machine that enables a person to type a message which is printed out in braille.

tendon: Attaches muscle to bone.

teratogen: A drug or other agent that causes abnormal development.

term infant: An infant born between 38 and 40 weeks gestation, some may consider 37 weeks term.

test battery: The use of a hierarchy of overlapping audiological tests and procedures to determine auditory status.

test bias: Unfairness in a testing procedure or instrument that gives one group a particular advantage or another disadvantage, which may be due to matters unrelated to ability, such as culture, sex, or race. See also "measurement bias".

Test for Auditory Comprehension of Language - Revised: A testing instrument designed to measure a child's understanding of grammar and sentence structure. Contains three subtests: Word Classes and Relations, Grammatical Morphemes, and Elaborated Sentences.

Test of Auditory Perceptual Skills (TAPS): A testing instrument designed to measure auditory skills of children 4 - 12 years of age. Subtests are used to test different areas, with an age equivalent of years and months being scored as results. Subtest 1: Auditory Number Memory (forward and reversed) is a measure of ability to retain and repeat a number series. Language ages in years and months for digits forward and digits reversed are scored. Subtest 2: Auditory Sentence Memory taps a child's ability to remember and repeat sentences. Subtest 3: Auditory Word Memory measures the ability to repeat a word series in the same sequence presented. Subtest 4: Auditory Interpretation of Directions measures auditory memory and sequencing and the ability to understand and interpret what is heard. Subtest 5: Auditory Word Discrimination assesses a child's ability auditorally to discriminate like pairs of words. Subtest 6: Auditory Processing measures the child's ability to understand a question and formulate a response.

testamentary trust: This trust document will not go into effect until after the death of the person who requests it. The request is contained in the Will. Any special provisions for the trust are mentioned in the Will, but it will not go into effect until after the Will has been probated. The normal probate period is usually 6 months to 6 years, so the trust will not be funded until that time.

tetanus: Also known as "lockjaw". A non-contagious disease caused by germs found in the soil which occurs as often in adults as in children, enters the body through wounds, and which can cause muscle spasms, severe nervous system damage, or death. Immunization with the DTP vaccine protects infants and children against this disease. Reimmunization is recommended every ten years. See "Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis" for initial immunization schedule.

The Arc of the United States: A national organization devoted to the welfare of people with developmental disabilities and their families, and in preventing disabilities for future generations. The Arc of the United States is made up of state and local chapters whose membership consists of individuals with disabilities and families of children with disabilities. South Dakota's chapter is called "The Arc of South Dakota", 1-800-870-1272.

The Association for the Severely Handicapped (TASH): A membership organization consisting of people with disabilities, families, professionals and community members that is dedicated to building an inclusive society that values all people.

The Education of All Handicapped Children Act (EHA): See "Public Law 94-142".

theory: Consists of concepts definitions, statements, and postulates which describe relationships between concepts. A theory is general and universal in scope; applying across the boundaries of specific disciplines.

therapeutic abortion: Termination of a pregnancy when a defect is found in the fetus during prenatal evaluation.

therapeutic foster care: A program that recruits foster parents who work with youth who are seriously emotionally disturbed. This program provides on-going specialized training and support to them.

therapeutic play school: A type of therapy used in cases of child abuse, which removes them from the circumstances of daily life and serves as a temporary island of reprieve.

therapist: A person with special skills, obtained through education and experience, in one or more areas of health care.

thick liquids: A nutrition term used when describing dietary instructions. Thick liquids or nectar thickened with baby cereal, dry baby food, or other commercial thickeners. Used for patients with swallowing problems and aspiration on thinner liquids. For example, 1/2 cup ice cream plus 2 T. milk shaken up.

third party liability (TPL): The obligation of an entity, other than Medicaid, for either partial or full payment of the medical cost of injury, disease, or disability. Third party liability sources include coverage such as private health insurance, Medicare, workman's compensation, disability insurance, or automobile insurance.

third party payment: Payment made by a party other than those directly involved (e.g., insurance company, Medicare, Medicaid, etc.).

thoracic-abdominal breathing: A respiratory pattern characterized by expansion of the thoracic and upper abdominal areas on inhalation; the rib cage elevates as it expands laterally and in the anterior-posterior dimension, while the diaphragm contracts and lowers, creating expansion vertically; intermittently evident as early as 7 to 8 months of age as in the abdominal obliques and intercostals become active in the respiratory process.

three day measles: See "rubella".

threshold of discomfort: An uncomfortable loudness level. The minimum loudness level, often for speech, that the listener designates as uncomfortable.

thyroid hormone: Produced by the thyroid gland in the neck, this hormone is required during all phases of development, but particularly during infancy.

tilt in space seating: Seating used for children who benefit from being able to sit in positions at angles other than upright. Also called orientation in space systems, rotational seating systems or fixed hip recliners.

timelines: Schedules for expected developmental outcomes.

tinnitus: High-pitched throbbing or ringing sounds in the ear, usually heard only by the affected person. Tinnitus is commonly caused by disease of the inner ear.

Title XIX (19): Federal program of medical aid designed for those unable to afford fee-for-service medical care (Medicaid). With a Medicaid card, individuals can purchase medical service as needed in the community. Part of the Social Security Act. See also "Medicaid".

Title XX (20): Federal program supports social services at the state and local level contingent on the development of a plan which includes the goals and target groups for such services. Part of the Social Security Act.

token reinforcement systems: A system in which students may earn plastic chips, marbles, "checkmarks" or other tangible items that may be exchanged for activities, food items, special privileges, or other rewards for positive behavior changes. Also referred to as a "token economy".

tone: Degree of muscular tension.

tone control: Allows adjustment of the low or high frequency (pitch) response of a hearing aid. The audiologist presents these controls to the specific hearing loss of a client.

tone deafness: Inability to distinguish between two sounds of different frequencies within the normal hearing range when there is no apparent loss of acuity in these frequencies, as is being unable to tell whether oneself or another is singing "off key" or "on key".

tongue lateralization: Active movements of the tongue to the sides of the mouth to maintain and propel food between the biting surfaces during the chewing process; begins at about 6 to 7 months of age with horizontal shifts or gross rolling movements of the tongue when food is placed on the side gums.

tongue retraction with anterior tongue elevation: Abnormal stabilization of the tongue back in the oral cavity with the anterior portion of the tongue elevated, pushing up against the alveolar ridge or hard palate; the back of the tongue is lowered due to the anterior tongue elevation; occurs as a compensation for excessive tongue instability.

tongue retraction: Strong pulling back of the tongue body into the oral-pharyngeal space for abnormal stability; the tongue appears thick in contour; reinforces abnormal head and neck hyperextension.

tongue thrust: Moving the tongue through the lips when swallowing. Normally associated with suckling in infants less than 4 months of age. It is a common abnormal feeding pattern; a very forceful protrusion of the tongue from the mouth. This makes it difficult to inset the nipple or spoon and may cause the liquid or food to be pushed out of the mouth.

tonic: The phase of a grand mal seizure that is marked by prolonged muscular contraction (rigidity).

tonic bite reflex: A common abnormal feeding pattern; the jaw moves upward into a tightly clenched posture when the teeth are stimulated by a finger, spoon or other object. This makes it difficult for the child to open his/her mouth.

tonic reflex: A reflex that lasts as long as body maintains a given position.

total communication: A philosophy requiring the incorporation of appropriate aural, manual and oral modes of communication to ensure effective communication with and among hearing impaired people. This philosophy encourages the use of all viable methods. Within this system, not all methods are used to the same extent by all people and in all situations.

totally blind: Having no functional vision. This term is used in an educational context to describe a student with a severe visual impairment in which they learn via braille or other non-visual media.

toxic deafness: Hearing loss resulting from the effect of drugs on the sensory mechanism, due to sensitivity to a drug or to an excessive dosage.

toxin: Any substance that acts like a poison.

toxoplasmosis: An infection caused by protozoa carried in raw meat and fecal material.

TPL: See "third party liability".

trachea: The windpipe, which leads from the back of the throat to the lungs.

trainable: A level of mental retardation, based on educability expectation, which involves measured intelligence of 40 to 55, with learning primarily in self-help skill areas; some academic achievement; social adjustment often limited to home and closely surrounding area; vocational proficiencies include supported work in a community job or sheltered workshop.

transdisciplinary: Multiple disciplines work together in the initial assessment, but provision of services is provided by one or two team members.

transducer: A device that receives energy from one system and retransmits it to another, often in a different form. Transducers are used in cochlear implants to alter sound into electric nerve-stimulating signals.

transfer of training: The process of generalizing behaviors or skills learned in one setting to other settings or circumstances.

transference: The unconscious assignment to others of feelings and attitudes that were originally associated with important figures (parents, siblings, etc.) in one's early life. The transference relationship follows the pattern of its prototype. The psychiatrist utilizes this phenomenon as a therapeutic tool to help the patient understand emotional problems and their origins. In the patient-physician relationship, the transference may be negative (hostile) or positive (affectionate).

transfusion: A general term referring to the transfer of blood from one person to another.

transition: The process of bridging the time and environments between two settings, programs, or life situations (e.g., from home to school, school to school, or from school/home to employment/independent living).

transition plan: A designed program outlining the transition of a person from school to adult life, by identifying the services needed for that specific individual, the activities that must occur during the school years, and the timelines and responsibilities for completion of these activities. In SD, transition planning begins at age 16. See also "transition services".

transition services: A coordinated set of activities for a student, designed within an outcome oriented process, which promotes movement from school to integrated employment (including supported employment), postsecondary education, vocational training, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, and community participation. These activities shall: (a) be based upon the individual student's needs; (b) take into account students' preferences and interests; and (c) include, but not be limited to, instruction in community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and when appropriate, the acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation and services. See also "transition plan".

translocation: A type of Down Syndrome in which a portion of the twenty-first chromosome pair breaks off and fuses with another pair.

transverse presentation: A situation in which the fetus lies across the birth canal.

trauma: 1. A blow or injury. 2. A cause for voice disorders in which the laryngeal cartilages are fractured or displaced by traumatic injury, and may have to be surgically reconstructed. Although the first priority would obviously be maintenance of the airway, the voice will also need attention, and therapy will most likely be necessary. The voice from the newly reconstructed larynx will typically be pitched low with a breathy quality.

treatment: An intervention designed to change behaviors or other conditions related to the child's emotional handicap; and/or helping the individual and his or her family to cope with the handicap.

treatment modality: The method that is used to treat a child; for example, behavior management is one treatment modality and play therapy is another.

tremor: A motion or movement, which occurs in a limb, that is constant, involuntary, and uncontrollable.

trial work period (TWP): A period of time in which a person eligible for SSDI has the opportunity to test sustained work ability. It begins with the month of entitlement; however, it cannot begin earlier than the month the application is filed. It ends after 9 months (not necessarily consecutive) of work in which the income is over a pre-determined amount per month (or over so many hours per month if self employed) by an SSDI beneficiary. A determination of the ability to perform substantial gainful activity is not made until after the trial work period is completed.

triceps skinfold thickness: Measurement of subcutaneous fat located around the triceps.

triplegia: Paralysis that involves three appendages, usually both legs and one arm.

trisomy 21: A type of Down Syndrome in which the chromosomal pairs do not separate properly as the sperm or egg cells are formed, resulting in an extra chromosome on the twenty-first pair. Also called nondisjunction.

TROCA: See "Tangible Reinforcement Operant Conditioning Audiometry".

trust: A legal entity established either by written agreement signed during the life of the person or by a Will. The trust is governed by the terms in the written document.

trust corpus: The property (and funds) held in the trust. It is called the trust estate.

trustee: A person or an organization designated to control or manage another party's property as determined through the trust. They have a responsibility for seeing that the funds are properly invested and disbursed according to the wishes of the Trustor and the laws of the state. The grantor and initial trustee may be the same person.

trustor: Also known as a "grantor" or "settlor". This is the person(s) who sets up the trust.

TSI: See "tactile speech indicator for definition".

tube feedings: Administration of nutrition through a tube.

tuberous sclerosis: A birth defect that does not appear until late childhood, is related to mental retardation in about 66 percent of the cases, and is characterized by tumors on many organs.

tubing: The plastic material of a specified size that channels and directs sound in hearing aid systems.

twenty-six (26) closure: As used in rehabilitation circles, means a successful closure. A person receiving rehabilitation services who has maintained suitable employment for 60 days or longer.

TWP: See "trial work period".

tympanogram/tympanometry: A graph showing the measurement of the ease with which sound flows through the eardrum membrane while air pressure against the eardrum is varied. It is a simple procedure that can be performed in most doctor's offices. Measures the movement of the eardrum, and can assist in determining if fluid or pressure is present in the middle ear.

typical peer: The chronologically aged peers of a child with disabilities who are not identified as disabled.

U

UAP: See "University of Affiliated Program".

UGI: See "upper GI study".

ultrasound: A prenatal evaluation procedure which employs high-frequency sound waves that are bounced through the mother's abdomen to record tissue densities.

underweight: Weight less than the 5th percentile for age.

undifferentiated schizophrenia: A condition manifested by definite signs of schizophrenic thought, affect and behavior that are of a sufficiently mixed or indefinite type that they defy classification into one of the other types of schizophrenia.

unearned income: One type of income considered when determining eligibility for the SSI program. It includes Social Security benefits, worker's or veterans compensation, pensions, support and maintenance in kind, annuities, rent, and interest.

uniformed service hospitals: Includes all military hospitals and designated uniformed services treatment facilities, some of which are former Public Health Service hospitals.

unilateral: One sided. Affecting or occurring on only one side of the body.

University Affiliated Program (UAP): Any of the interdisciplinary training centers sponsored by the federal government to demonstrate innovative methods of delivering services, to train specialists, and to do research in developmental disabilities. A UAP can be operated by a public or nonprofit private entity, including parents of persons with developmental disabilities, professionals, paraprofessionals, students, and volunteers, which is associated with, or is an integral part of, a college or university. The UAP in SD is located at the University of South Dakota, School of Medicine, 1-800-658-3080 (V/TTY).

unmet needs: Needs arising from the child/family's problems that need to be worked on.

unspecified mental retardation: Refers to individuals with mental retardation whose condition has no known cause.

upper GI study (UGI): A fluoroscopic study during which the child is given liquid barium, allowing for the anatomical/structural evaluation of the esophagus, stomach, duodenum, gastric outlet, and proximal small bowel.

upper respiratory infection (URI): An infection of the ears, throat, and tonsils. Usually caused by a cold.

ureters: The tubes that carry urine from the kidneys to the bladder.

urethra: The tube that carries the urine from the bladder to the outside of the body.

URI: See "upper respiratory infection".

use errors: A common language error seen in children with language problems in which they are unable to follow the rules of communication: when to talk, how to request information, how to take turns. A child with a use error might be unable to ask an adult for help, even though he knows that help is needed and the adult can provide it.

Usher's syndrome: A condition in which the individual has retinitis pigmentosa plus hearing impairment.

V

validity: The degree to which a test measures what it is supposed to measure. Validity tells us what we can infer from the test score.

values: Acts, customs, institutions, etc., regarded in a particular, especially favorable, way by a people, ethnic group, etc.

vent: A small hole drilled through an earmold to allow the passage of air and to modify sound reaching the eardrum.

verbal dyspraxia: A common speech disorder in which a person is unable to produce the sequential, rapid, and precise movements required for speech. Nothing is wrong with the child's vocal apparatus, but the child's brain cannot give correct instructions for the motor movements involved in speech. This disorder is characterized by many omissions. Some verbally dyspraxia children speak only in vowels, making their speech nearly intelligible, and have very slow, halting speech with many false starts before the right sounds are produced. Their speech errors may be similar to those of children with phonological impairment.

verbalisms: The excessive use of speech (wordiness) in which individuals use words that have little meaning to them.

very low birth weight: Birth weight less than 1500 grams.

vestibular mechanism/system: A structure in the inner ear containing three semicircular canals filled with fluid. These canals and fluid serve as receptors that interpret stimuli from body movements. Its function is to assist the body in positioning and maintaining balance (equilibrium).

videodisc: A record like platter that stores information and combines usage of a television and computer-assisted systems.

vide swallow study: A videofluoroscopic study from which a detailed analysis of the structures and function of the oral and pharyngeal mechanisms during the feeding and swallowing processes can be obtained. Information obtained not only identifies whether aspiration occurs, but also helps to determine the factors causing the aspiration so that appropriate decisions regarding treatment and methods for nutritional intake can be made. (Also may be referred to as a modified barium swallow study or oral-pharyngeal motility study.)

Vineland Social Maturity Scale: A standardized assessment procedure for evaluating adaptive behavior.

visual acuity: The sharpness or clearness of vision.

visual aids: Any materials or machines or actions that allow students to SEE information. Examples of visual aids are: chalkboards, overheads, filmstrips, TV/VCRs, pictures, films, pantomimes, and computers.

visual closure: The ability to identify an object from an incomplete visual presentation.

visual discrimination: The ability to match or determine exact characteristics of two forms when one of the forms is among similar forms. Distinguishing likenesses and differences between symbols.

visual disorder/impairment: Having reduced vision in one or both eyes that results in difficulties with educational performance and/or an independent lifestyle. Visual losses may be classified by the degree of visual acuity, peripheral vision, and the ability to track, shift gaze, and scan. The terms partially sighted, low vision, legally blind and totally blind are used in the educational context to describe students with visual impairments. Eye disorders which can lead to visual impairments can include retinal degeneration, albinism, cataracts, glaucoma, muscular problems that result in visual disturbances, corneal disorders, diabetic retinopathy, congenital disorders and infection.

visual figure ground: Ability to separate at will an object from its surrounding background and hold the image while scanning the total pattern.

visual memory: The ability to remember for immediate recall (after 4 or 5 seconds) all of the characteristics of a given form and being able to find this form (recall) from an array of similar forms, or to recall in sequence what was seen for long or short periods of time.

visual motor coordination/integration: The ability to coordinate the eyes with the movements of the hand and/or body and the thought processes of the brain to achieve a specific motor task such as writing, sorting, and sewing.

visual perception: The capacity to identify, organize, and interpret or give meaning to what is seen.

Visual Reinforcement Operant Conditioning Audiometry (VROCA):

An audiological screening method used by an audiologist whereas a visual reinforcement is used in place of the tangible reinforcement. Conditioned turns of the head toward a sound source are reinforced by an attractive three-dimensional animated toy. Infants who fail this screening should be referred for a comprehensive audiologic evaluation. See also "Tangible Reinforcement Operant Conditioning Audiometry (TROCA)".

vitreous fluid: A jellylike substance that fills most of the interior of the eye.

Voc. Rehab. (VR): See "vocational rehabilitation".

vocal nodules: These are caused by abuse of the true vocal cords and are the result of a thickening at a specific locale. When a node develops on one cord, there is often an irritation at the corresponding site on the other fold, and then bilateral nodes can be the result. As the nodes thicken, they lower the fundamental pitch of the cords with their increased mass. Other presenting symptoms would include a breathy or hoarse sound, this being due to the air leakage caused by poor approximation of the folds with the presence of a mass. Most vocal nodules will disappear with proper voice therapy to reduce vocal abuse, but in some causes, surgical reduction is necessary. The presence of vocal nodules is considered to be a voice disorder.

vocational education/instruction: Organized instruction which is designed to prepare individuals (upon its completion) for employment in a specific occupation or cluster of closely related occupations in an occupational field, and which is especially and particularly suited to the needs of those engaged in or preparing to engage in such occupation or occupations. Vocational instruction may also include exploratory programs.

vocational program: A planned sequence of instruction, courses, services, or activities designed to meet an occupational objective.

vocational rehabilitation specialist: The professional who specializes in designing and implementing programs to help people with disabilities obtain and hold employment.

vocational rehabilitation (VR, VRD, DRV): 1. The service of providing diagnosis, guidance, training, physical restoration, and placement to persons with disabilities for the purpose of preparing them for and involving them in employment that helps them to live with greater independence. The preferred term is now rehabilitation services. 2. Vocational Rehabilitation Department, or Division of Rehabilitation Services: A State/Federal program that assists people with disabilities to independence.

Vocational Student Organization (VSO): Those organizations for individuals enrolled in vocational education programs which engage in activities as an integral part of the instructional program. Such organizations may have state and national units which aggregate the work and purposes of instruction in vocational education at the local level.

VocEd: See "vocational education".

voice disorders: Types of speech impairments characterized by either an inappropriate pitch (too high, too low, never changing or interrupted by breaks); loudness (too loud or not loud enough); or quality (harsh, hoarse, breathy, or nasal) of the speech itself.

volume control: A control for changing the amplification level or sound through a hearing aid or assistive device. This control is usually set so that most incoming sounds are heard at a comfortable loudness level. However, the volume control can be adjusted by the user for different listening situations.

volunteer: An unpaid worker.

vomiting: Forceful emptying of stomach contents through the mouth.

VR: See "vocational rehabilitation".

VRD: Vocational Rehabilitation Department. See "vocational rehabilitation".

VROCA: See "Visual Reinforcement Operant Conditioning Audiometry".

VSO: See "Vocational Student Organization".

W

W sit: Sitting back between flexed legs with the feet turned out; often called "frog sitting".

WAIS-R: See "Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (Revised)".

waiting period: A period of time between the beginning of a disability and the date benefits begin. Also known as an elimination period.

waiver: 1. To voluntarily give up a right. 2. A rider waiving (excluding) liability for a stated cause of accident or (especially) sickness. 3. A provision or rider agreeing to waive (forego) premium payment during a period of disability by the policyholder.

WBC: See "white blood cells".

WC: See "Workers' Compensation".

Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (Revised) (WAIS-R): One in the series of verbal and performing Wechsler tests which are widely used in school systems.

Wechsler Intelligence Scales/Tests: A series of verbal and performance tests widely used in school systems that can be used from preschool levels, through childhood, to adulthood. The three types used are: 1. WPPSE: The Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence. 2. WAIS-R: The Adult Intelligence Scale (Revised). 3. WISC or WISC-R: The Intelligence Scale for Children (Revised).

Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (Revised) (WISC-R): One of a series of verbal and performance Wechsler tests which are widely used in school systems. The WISC-R is an updated and revised version of the WISC.

Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC): One of a series of verbal and performance Wechsler tests which are widely used in school systems.

wedge: A wedge-shaped pillow or pad used to aid in positioning.

weight for length/height: The percentile when the infant's or child's measurements are plotted on the weight/length growth curve.

well-baby care: Preventive and routine care to assess the general health of the child up to the second birthday (includes immunizations).

Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSE): One of a series of verbal and performance Wechsler tests which are widely used in school systems.

wheelchair cushions: Provides a stable seat for a child as well as provides comfort, aid posture, reduces the impact of bumpy rides, prevents pressure sores, and aids in transferring to other seats. Can be helpful for sitting on other seats as well. Cushions come in many shapes, sizes and materials (gel, air, foam).

white blood cells (WBC): The cells in the blood that assist the body in preventing infection.

white cane law: This is a South Dakota State statute which grants certain civil rights and protections to blind/visually impaired individuals who carry a white cane or use a guide dog in harness.

whooping cough: See "pertussis".

WIC: Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children. Administered by the Department of Health.

Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT): A short test for evaluating basic skills of spelling, arithmetic and reading. The WRAT is widely used by schools for testing educational achievement.

Will: The purpose of a Last Will and Testament is to direct the distribution of the assets of the estate to all the beneficiaries. Parents of children with disabilities are encouraged to "disinherit" that child, so that he or she will not receive any portion of the estate which would create major assets and; therefore, reduce or eliminate government benefits. That child's share should be left to a Special Needs Trust.

WISC: See "Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children".

WISC-R: See "Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (Revised)".

withdrawing behavior: Behavior characterized by reduced interest in or contact with other people, and can include absence of speech, regression to babyhood, exhibition of many fears, depression, and refusing contacts with other people.

within normal limits: What is said when test results are found to be alright.

work experience program: A school-supervised program that, through part-time employment, provides experiences in the work environment to assist potential school leavers in acquiring the necessary human relations skills, work attitudes, and common knowledge required for successful employment and for choosing a vocation and/or a vocational training program. The content of this program is related to the occupational objective of the student.

Workers' Compensation (WC): 1. A schedule of benefits payable to an employee for injury, disability, dismemberment, or death as a result of occupational hazard. The payments are a liability of the employer. 2. Insurance agreeing to pay the Workers' Compensation benefits required by law on behalf of the employer.

WPPSE: See "Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence".

WRAT: See "Wide Range Achievement Test".

written notes: Using black tip pen and glare free paper to communicate expressively and receptively.

Y

youth advocacy: Advocacy by a young person, perhaps between ages fourteen to twenty-one; such advocacy is usually in behalf of other young people and in an expressive relationship.

Z

Zimmerman Preschool Language Scale: A testing instrument used to measure a child's auditory comprehension and verbal expression of language.