



# Communication Impairment in Vietnam

## What is a communication impairment?

Communication is a fundamental life skill. People need communication to be able to fulfil their social needs. For example, making friendships or ordering food at a restaurant.

A communication impairment is when a person has **problems in their ability to receive, send, process or comprehend** verbal, nonverbal or symbolic information. A communication impairment is any problem people have with speech, language, voice, fluency or social communication.

Everyone has the potential to communication but some people have communication impairments:

People with communication impairments may need help with:

- Saying sounds correctly
- Following instructions
- Understanding what they're reading
- Thinking of the correct words to say
- Social communication: such as body language, eye contact or turn taking
- Voice difficulties, such as losing voice frequently, voice sounding hoarse.
- Stuttering



## Communication impairment is more common than you think...

Children with autism, Down syndrome, and Cerebral Palsy often begin their life with a communication impairment.

Children with language impairment are six times more likely to have a reading problem than children without.

There is a high correlation between communication difficulties and poor mental health.

Adults may experience a communication impairment for a variety of reasons, such as traumatic brain injury.

One in seven Australians has some form of communication impairment.

Over 3 million people in America have difficulties with communicating.



# Communication Impairment in Vietnam

It is estimated that one million people in Vietnam have a communication impairment.

What can cause communication problems?

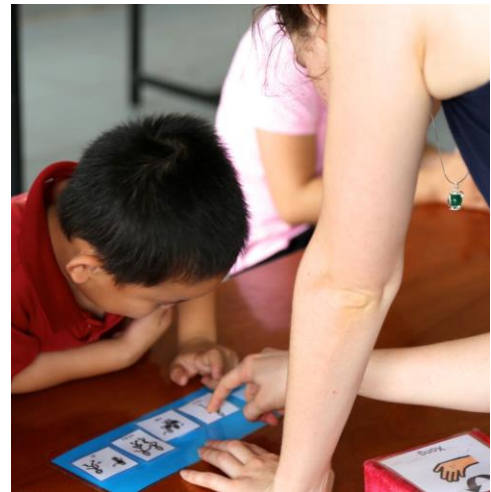
Some communication impairments may have no known cause.

Some causes of communication impairments may be present from birth, such as people who are born with: Autism, Down syndrome, Cerebral Palsy or a Cleft Palate.

Some causes of communication impairment may develop over time, or from a traumatic injury, such as: Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, nodules on the vocal cords, stroke or traumatic brain injury.

**People often face difficulties when they have communication impairment...**

It can be hard to speak up and make decisions. Communication impairments can make many activities difficult. Such as getting a job, learning new things or making new friends, as all of these activities usually require good communication skills.



Where can you get help?

Contact a speech therapist in your local area. A speech therapist can assess your communication needs, provide therapy and strategies for you.

For more information on speech pathology, visit the Trinh Foundation website:

<http://trinhfoundation.org>

Contact details for Vietnamese trained speech therapist are provided on the Trinh Foundation Australia website.