

Barnett, Pagani, 2012). The [American Academy of Pediatrics \(2013a\)](#) offers recommendations for healthy television viewing.

**Reinforcement** can also shape aggressive behavior. Sometimes the reward for aggression is negative (e.g., punishment) yet reinforcing, because it brings attention. For example, children who are ignored by a parent until they hit a sibling or the parent learn that this act garners attention.

When children exhibit extreme behaviors, such as aggression, parents may be concerned about the need for professional help. Generally, the difference between normal and problematic behavior is not the behavior itself but its **quantity** (number of occurrences), **severity** (interference with social or cognitive functioning), **distribution** (different manifestations), **onset** (when behavior started), and **duration** (at least 4 weeks).\*

## Speech Problems

The most critical period for speech development occurs between 2 and 4 years old. During this period, children are using their rapidly growing vocabulary faster than they can produce the words. Failure to master sensorimotor integrations results in stuttering or stammering as children try to say the word they are already thinking about. This dysfluency in speech pattern is common during language development in children 2 to 5 years old ([Nelson, 2013](#)). Stuttering affects boys more frequently than girls, has been shown to have a genetic link, and usually resolves during childhood ([McQuiston and Kloczko, 2011](#)). The [National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders \(2010\)](#) encourages parents and caregivers of children who stutter to speak slowly and relaxed, refrain from criticizing the child's speech, resist completing the child's sentences, and take time to listen attentively.

The best therapy for speech problems is prevention and early detection. Common causes of speech problems include hearing loss, developmental delay, autism, lack of environmental stimulation, and physical conditions that impede normal speech production ([McLaughlin, 2011](#)). Referral for further evaluation and treatment may be necessary to prevent a problem from interfering with learning. Anticipatory preparation of parents for expected developmental norms may allay caregiver concerns.

Children pressured into producing sounds ahead of their