

 **TABLE 11.4** Behaviors Indicative of a Possible Language Impairment in Children

Child mispronounces sounds and words.

Child omits word endings, such as plural *-s* and past tense *-ed*.

Child omits small unemphasized words, such as auxiliary verbs or prepositions.

Child uses an immature vocabulary; overuses empty words, such as *one* and *thing*; or seems to have difficulty recalling or finding the right word.

Child has difficulty comprehending new words and concepts.

Child's sentence structure seems immature or overreliant on forms, such as subject–verb–object. It's unoriginal, dull.

Child's question and/or negative sentence style is immature.

Child has difficulty with one of the following:

- Verb tensing
- Pronouns
- Word order
- Articles
- Irregular verbs
- Irregular plurals
- Auxiliary verbs
- Prepositions
- Conjunctions

Child has difficulty relating sequential events.

Child has difficulty following directions.

Child's questions are often inaccurate or vague.

Child's questions are often poorly formed.

Child has difficulty answering questions.

Child's comments are often off-topic or inappropriate for the conversation.

There are long pauses between a remark and the child's reply or between successive remarks by the child. It's as if the child is searching for a response or is confused.

Child appears to be attending to communication but remembers little of what is said.

Child has difficulty using language socially for the following purposes:

- Request needs
- Greet
- Respond/reply
- Relate events
- Pretend/imagine
- Request information
- Share ideas, feelings
- Entertain
- Protest
- Gain attention
- Clarify
- Reason

Child has difficulty interpreting the following:

- Figurative language
- Emotions
- Humor
- Body language
- Gestures

Child does not alter production for different audiences and locations.

Child does not seem to consider the effect of language on the listener.

Child often has verbal misunderstandings with others.

Child has difficulty with reading and writing.

Child's language skills seem to be much lower than other areas, such as mechanical, artistic, or social skills.