

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910459897603321
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Titolo	Late-talking children : a symptom or a stage? // Stephen M. Camarata
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cambridge, Massachusetts : , : The MIT Press, , 2014 ©2014
ISBN	0-262-52836-3 0-262-31933-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (251 p.)
Disciplina	618.92/855
Soggetti	Language disorders in children Language disorders in children - Diagnosis Children - Language Developmentally disabled children - Education Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Acknowledgments; 1 A Symptom or a Stage?; 2 What Do We Know about Late-Talking Children?; 3 Late-Talking Children and Autism; 4 Lessons from Autism: Charlatans, False Causes, and Questionable Cures; 5 The Einstein Syndrome; 6 Diagnosis and Dangers; 7 Early Childhood Services; 8 Special Education Services: The Law versus the Practice; 9 Navigating Schools; 10 Putting It All Together; Notes; Index
Sommario/riassunto	When children are late in hitting developmental milestones, parents worry. And no delay causes more parental anxiety than late talking, which is associated in many parents' minds with such serious conditions as autism and severe intellectual disability. In fact, as children's speech expert Stephen Camarata points out in this enlightening book, children are late in beginning to talk for a wide variety of reasons. For some children, late talking may be a symptom of other, more serious, problems; for many others, however, it may simply be a stage with no long-term complications. Camarata describes in accessible language what science knows about the characteristics and causes of late talking. He explains that today's greater awareness of

autism, as well as the expanded definition of autism as a "spectrum" of symptoms, has increased the chances that a late-talking child will be diagnosed -- or misdiagnosed -- with autism. But, he reminds us, late talking is only one of a constellation of autism symptoms. Although all autistic children are late talkers, not all late-talking children are autistic.

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