

Course Unit	Communication Disorders	Field of study	Psychology
Master in	Special and Inclusive Education	School	School of Education
Academic Year	2025/2026	Year of study	1
Type	Semestral	Semester	2
Level	2-1	ECTS credits	6.0
Code	5073-800-1204-00-25		
Workload (hours)	162	Contact hours	T - - TP 35 PL - TC - S - E - OT 10 O -

T - Lectures; TP - Lectures and problem-solving; PL - Problem-solving, project or laboratory; TC - Fieldwork; S - Seminar; E - Placement; OT - Tutorial; O - Other

Name(s) of lecturer(s) Paula Marisa Fortunato Vaz

Learning outcomes and competences

At the end of the course unit the learner is expected to be able to:

1. Know the typical pattern of language acquisition and development;
2. Describe the communication, language and speech disorders, regarding its definition, risk factors, characteristics, identification, intervention, pedagogical aspects, impact on life;
3. Describe communication disorders that arise associated with diagnoses in the cognitive and motor domain;
4. Understand the role of different educational agents in the prevention, identification and intervention in Communication Disorders, in a multidisciplinary action-collaboration perspective.

Prerequisites

Before the course unit the learner is expected to be able to:
No have.

Course contents

1 Language acquisition and development; 2 Communication, language and speech disorders: Definition, Risk Factors, Characteristics, Identification, Intervention and pedagogical considerations, impact on different aspects of life; 3 Communication disorders associated with diagnoses in the cognitive and motor domain; 4 The role of different educational agents in the prevention, identification and intervention in Communication Disorders, in a perspective of multidisciplinary action-collaboration.

Course contents (extended version)

1. Language acquisition and development
2. Communication, language and speech disorders: Definition, risk factors, characteristics.
 - Identification, intervention and pedagogical considerations, impact on different aspects of life.
 - Language disorders
 - Speech Disorders: Difficulties in phonological recognition of speech sounds, and articulation.
 - Fluency disorders beginning in childhood (stuttering)
 - Social communication disorder (pragmatic)
3. Communication disorders associated with diagnoses in the cognitive and motor domain.
4. The role of different educational agents in the prevention, identification and intervention.

Recommended reading

1. Bowen, C. (2009). Children's speech sound disorders. Wiley-Blackwell.
2. Brodin, J., & Renblad, K. (2019). Improvement of preschool children's speech and language skills. *Early Child Development and Care*, 190(14), 2205-2213.
3. Cruz-Santos, A. (2019). Perturbações da linguagem: Uma revisão do conceito. In M. L. Correia (Org.), *Educação inclusiva e necessidades educativas Especiais* Vol. 2 (pp. 61-87). Flora Editora.
4. Damico, J. S., Muller, N., & Ball, M. (2021). *The handbook of language and speech disorders*. John Wiley & Sons Ltd.
5. Oliveira, P., & Cruz-Santos, A. (2024). *Linguagem infantil e comunicação social no contexto da inclusão escolar*. Editora de Castro.

Teaching and learning methods

In theoretical-practical classes, theoretical exposition and discussion of central themes are valued, as well as the viewing of videos and subsequent reflections and comments. In tutorial classes, practical work in progress is guided, promoting critical reflection on what is being worked on, based on scientific research and the professional experiences of students.

Assessment methods

1. Alternative 1 - (Regular, Student Worker) (Final)
 - Intermediate Oral Test - 70% (Test.)
 - Practical Work - 30% (Group work.)
2. Alternative 2 - (Regular, Student Worker) (Supplementary, Special)
 - Final Written Exam - 100% (Exam.)

Language of instruction

1. Portuguese
2. Portuguese, with additional English support for foreign students.

Electronic validation

Paula Marisa Fortunato Vaz	Paula Marisa Fortunato Vaz	Carla Isabel Pedroso de Lima da Conceicao	Carlos Manuel Costa Teixeira
23-01-2026	29-01-2026	09-03-2026	15-03-2026