

Diagnostic criteria for 313.23 Selective Mutism
(cautionary statement)

- A. Consistent failure to speak in specific social situations (in which there is an expectation for speaking, e.g., at school) despite speaking in other situations.
- B. The disturbance interferes with educational or occupational achievement or with social communication.
- C. The duration of the disturbance is at least 1 month (not limited to the first month of school).
- D. The failure to speak is not due to a lack of knowledge of, or comfort with, the spoken language required in the social situation.
- E. The disturbance is not better accounted for by a [Communication Disorder](#) (e.g., [Stuttering](#)) and does not occur exclusively during the course of a [Pervasive Developmental Disorder](#), [Schizophrenia](#), or other Psychotic Disorder.