



How Do I Know if My Child Needs Speech and Language Services?

My child:

(0-6 months)

- does not attend to different noises
- does not let me know that he/she wants something using gestures or sounds
- does not babble using vowels and consonants such as b,p, or m

(6-12 months)

- does not turn or look at me when his/her name is called
- does not engage in or appear to enjoy speech games like peek-a-boo
- does not have one word
- does not use speech or non-crying sounds to get my attention

(12-24 months)

- does not follow simple directions such as “Give me” or “Come here”
- does not identify a few body parts
- does not identify pictures of common objects (animals, toys)
- does not combine two words when speaking (e.g. “More juice” or “Daddy go”)

(24-36 months)

- does not answer simple “who”, “what”, or “where” questions
- does not follow 2-step directions
- does not have an expressive vocabulary of 50-250 or more words
- does not play appropriately with toys

(3-4 years)

- does not follow multi-step directions
- does not understand concepts such as big, little; in, on, under; top, bottom; wet, dry, etc.
- does not ask “how” or “why” questions
- does not use complete sentences (4 or more words)
- does not produce speech that is intelligible 90% of the time

(Preschool and School-Age)

- has difficulty attending to and answering questions about a story
- can not tell a story or take turns within a conversation
- does not use the same grammar as the rest of his peers
- does not engage in group play activities or initiate play with peers
- experiences facial tension or struggles when speaking
- has difficulty reading nonverbal cues such as facial expressions, body language, tone of voice
- demonstrates word retrieval difficulty/appears to stutter when thinking of a word
- does not understand figurative language (idioms, similes, metaphors)/is a literal thinker
- is not able to adapt his/her language style to different social situations

If you have placed 2 or more checks in the same age bracket, your child may benefit from speech and language therapy. Please call (781)335-6663 for more details.