



RED FLAGS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Refer to a Speech-Language Pathologist if the child **DOES NOT**:

12 mo

- Babble or coo during play
- Point or use gestures (wave bye, shake head yes/no)
- Consistently respond to their name
- Imitate actions or gestures
- ~25% of what is said is understood by unfamiliar people

18 mo

- Use 15 or more words
- Imitate words consistently
- Wave or say "bye bye"
- Respond to simple commands (Come here, Give me the shoe)
- Understand names of common objects
- Point to at least one body part

2 yrs

- Use at least 50 words
- Put two words together ("More milk" "No cookie")
- Respond to simple questions ("Where's the doggie?")
- Point to objects upon command consistently
- Point to at least 3 body parts
- ~50% of what is said is understood by unfamiliar people

3 yrs

- Combine three to four words to make simple sentences
- Answer yes/no questions consistently
- Answer simple who, what, where questions
- Follow two-step directions consistently
- ~75% of what is said is understood by unfamiliar people

4 yrs

- Produce 5-6 word sentences
- Tells story with beginning, middle, and ending
- Follow three-step directions
- ~90% of what is said is understood by unfamiliar people

5 yrs

- Use complete, grammatically correct sentences with lots of detail
- Answer how and why questions or questions about past or future events
- No sound production errors



RED FLAGS FOR SPEECH-LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

Developing Stages

- 4-7 mo: NOT BABBLING
- 7-12 mo: MAKING ONLY A FEW SOUNDS/GESTURES
- 7-24 mo: NOT UNDERSTANDING WHAT OTHERS SAY
- 12-18 mo: SAYING ONLY A FEW WORDS
- 18-24 mo: WORDS NOT EASILY UNDERSTOOD BY OTHERS
- 18-36 mo: NOT COMBINING WORDS
- 24-36 mo: SPEECH IS UNCLEAR, EVEN TO FAMILIAR PEOPLE

Red Flags for All Ages

- NOT SMILING/INTERACTING WITH OTHERS
- NOT SHOWING AN INTEREST IN COMMUNICATING
- SUDDEN REGRESSION OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE SKILLS
- STUTTERING LASTING LONGER THAN 6 MONTHS

Risk Factors

- Family history of speech and language disorder
- Medical history of chronic fluid in the middle ear
- Limited or poor interactions with primary caregivers
- Motor disorders/muscle weakness
- Limited exposure to language in their environment

Criteria that DOES NOT increase risk

- More than one language spoken in the home
- Birth order
- Gender

References:

*Michigan Medicine, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital
American Speech-Hearing Association*



RED FLAGS FOR FEEDING DEVELOPMENT

Refer to a Speech-Language Pathologist if the child does any of the following:

1. Coughing, choking, or gagging during bottle or breast feeding
2. Raspy “wet” vocal quality shortly after bottle or breast feeding
3. Ongoing poor weight gain
4. Decreased tolerance/difficulty transitioning to purees
5. Decreased tolerance/difficulty transitioning to cup drinking
6. Decreased tolerance/difficulty transitioning to more complex textures including: Stage 2 or 3 baby foods, Crunchy meltables (i.e., Gerber puffs, crunchies, wagon wheels, etc), or Table foods
7. Frequent coughing or throat clearing during/shortly after feeding
8. Coughing or gagging on new foods or textures
9. Consistent drooling
10. Refusing to eat certain foods, temperatures, or textures
11. Continuing to tolerate only baby foods after 12 months
12. Food repertoire of less than 20 foods at or after 18+ months
13. Dropping previously accepted foods for longer than a few days