Early intervention refers to the early identification and support provided to children who are at risk of poor outcomes. The goal is to prevent problems as they arise or manage them before they get worse, by reducing risk factors and increasing protective factors in the child’s life.

When to seek early intervention:
- if there is a family history of speech or language difficulties
- if your child has a hearing impairment
- if your child exhibits delayed speech or language

In any of these cases, consult with your physician about a referral for early intervention services.

Typical language milestones:
- by 4 months: coos, laughs
- by 12 months: babbles, reduplicates consonant-vowel combinations (“mama”, “dada”), babbles with changing tone, responds to own name, communicates (in some way) for needs
- by 15 months: first words
- by 18 months: understands simple commands, 20+ words
- by 24 months: 100 words, 2-word phrases, imitates words/actions

*NOTE: This is a general guide. There is variation between children.

References: