

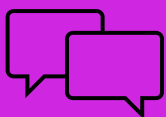
MAY IS BETTER SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH

Prevention & Early Intervention for Speech-Language Difficulties

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.

TECHNIQUES TO PROMOTE YOUR CHILD'S LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

- ✓ be face to face with your child when interacting
- ✓ repeat your child's sounds back to them
- ✓ comment on what you are doing and what your child is doing
- ✓ wait for your child to show interest, then engage in those activities and talk about them
- ✓ respond with interest to your child's comments
- ✓ sing songs and read books together

References:

Paul, R., Norbury, C., & Gosse, C. (2018). *Language Disorders from Infancy through Adolescence: listening, speaking, reading, writing, and communicating* (Fifth ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

The Hanen Centre: Speech and language development for children. (n.d.). Retrieved May 03, 2021 from <http://www.hanen.org>