

Speech/Language Development

Prepared by:

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Suggestions for parents who have concerns about a child's speech/language development.

1. Talk with family doctor about normal development vs. speech/language delays
2. Refer to the many free public publications on the American Speech Language Hearing Association website: <https://www.asha.org/public/>
3. Have child's hearing levels checked. Beware that hearing levels can fluctuate with allergies, ear infections, and that mixed loss can occur.
4. Seek an evaluation by a certified Speech/Language Pathologist (ASHA certified and state licensed). SLPs can be found:
 - a. First Steps - ages 0-3
 - b. Public Schools - ages 3+
 - c. Private Therapists (use ASHA website: <https://www.asha.org/profind/>)
 - d. Hospital/Clinics/sometimes with ENT offices
5. Get ideas for enhancing communication skills on sites developed by certified SLPs such as www.mommyspeechtherapy.com and www.socialthinking.com.
6. Talk with and listen to your child in daily activities constantly. Parents can help in many areas of Communication Development.
 - a. Abstract language - metaphors, idioms, etc.
 - b. Social language - turn taking, maintaining conversation
 - c. Comprehension and expression of language - check for understanding
 - d. Phonological awareness - critical early skill for reading
 - e. Model appropriate speech sounds and rate of speech