

Guidelines for Speech/Language Referral



At any age:

- Parental Concern about child's speech and language
- Child is heard to have dysfluent speech (stammering) or if parent reports hearing this
- Child has difficulty with eating or drinking in terms of chewing and swallowing
- Child has a hoarse voice or abnormal voice quality
- Child whose play or social interaction seems inappropriate.

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Age 18 Months:

Referral Not Necessary	Referral not necessary but development should be checked at 23 months	Refer to Speech and Language Pathologist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎧 First words emerging - possibly up to 19 and point to objects to be named 🎧 understanding more words and phrases than they can say e.g. Where's your coat? 🎧 Copying words and short familiar phrases 🎧 Parents may still understand child's attempts at language better than unfamiliar listeners 🎧 Interested in other people and attempting to communicate with them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎧 Possibly using jargon with a couple of words 🎧 Understanding language in specific contexts e.g. "here's your cup" 🎧 Looks with interest when hears language but no attempts to copy words 🎧 Able to concentrate for short periods on toys or interaction with adults. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎧 Poor attention e.g. unable to sit with adult for short period 🎧 Does not make eye contact or show interest in adults or other children 🎧 Not using any words 🎧 Doesn't look to people or objects when named 🎧 Doesn't turn to look where sounds are coming from (? hearing)

Guidelines for Speech/Language Referral

Age 2 years:

Referral Not Necessary	Monitor	Refer to Speech and Language Pathologist
<ul style="list-style-type: none">🎧 Vocabulary of 50 words🎧 Speech is intelligible to familiar listeners🎧 Understands words and simple phrases without clues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">🎧 Good pretend play. Able to concentrate for short spells.🎧 few words🎧 Responds to instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">🎧 Little pretend play🎧 Poor attention🎧 Few to no words🎧 No apparent comprehension or inability assess this

Articulation skills: p, b,t,d,n,m,

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Age 2.5 years:

Referral Not Necessary	Monitor	Refer to Speech and Language Pathologist
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Understands single words and some simple instructionsLarge single word vocabulary (50 plus words and beginning to link words together)Intelligible to close family in a known context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">50 plus single words and parents report that child is making progress (no concerns re: comprehension of language)Intelligible speech to close close family members, but not to others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Poor comprehension of languageFew or no words although other skills are good (i.e., attention/play)Unintelligible to mother /close family even in a known context

Articulation skills: w (ends of words may be omitted)

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Age 3 years:

Referral Not Necessary	Monitor	Refer to Speech and Language Pathologist
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Uses appropriate sentences of 3 or more words● Welcomes and responds to adult suggestions most of the time● Odd words can still be hard to understand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Uses sentences containing on 2 words (play/attention/ comprehension is o.k.)● Frequently unintelligible to people other than close family	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Poor comprehension of language● Only saying single words (or learnt phrases) although other skills are o.k.)● Unintelligible most of the time to close family, even in context● Limited pretend play● Cannot attend for longer than a few minutes

Articulation skills: s,z,f

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Age 3.5 - 4 years:

Referral Not Necessary	Monitor	Refer to Speech and Language Pathologist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔊 Utterances are at least 5-6 words long and used appropriately 🔊 is mainly intelligible to you 🔊 Fricative sounds are used (i.e., f,v,s,sh) but no always in every position 🔊 Difficulty with consonant blends (i.e., boo for blue, ky for sky) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔊 Frequently unintelligible, even in context. Shows immature speech sound patterns 🔊 The sounds t and d are used for k and g (i.e., tar for car) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🔊 Frequently repeats another person in a parrot like manner. 🔊 Difficulty understanding language 🔊 Utterances are less than 5 words per sentence. 🔊 Unintelligible to family most of the time. Shows a disordered speech pattern (i.e., omits all initial consonants, vowel abnormalities, use of one consonant sound only)

Articulation skills: Most consonant and vowel sounds are now heard.

May have difficulty with k,g, ch, j, sh, th, r, y

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Age 4.5 - 5 years:

Referral Not Necessary	Monitor	Refer to Speech and Language Pathologist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎧 Utterances are long and appropriate with some grammatical errors (i.e., past tense comed, or brokeed) 🎧 Double consonants (i.e., sp, fl, tr) are not always accurate 🎧 Lisp (th for s). Difficulty with post vocalic /r/ sounds (i.e.teacher, orange) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎧 Usually intelligible to the family but speech sounds immature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🎧 Severely unintelligible even in context. Any deletions (i.e., bo or oat for boat) 🎧 Significant comprehension and/or expressive language difficulties 🎧 Difficulties understanding instructions containing several key words or understanding question words (i.e., who, where, when) 🎧 Unable to relate to a short sequence of events

Articulation skills: May continue to have difficulty with post vocalic /r/ sounds and some /th/ sounds.

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Age 6-7 years:

Referral Not Necessary	Refer to Speech and Language Pathologist
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Evidence of a lisp (i.e., uses th sounds for s). Please refer to the orofacial myology evaluation checklist.<li>● A few double consonants are still not used correctly<li>● Some grammatical features are still incorrect (i.e., felled, buyed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Significant comprehension and/or expressive language difficulties.<li>● Child's speech is unintelligible