



Checklist for Referral to Speech Pathology Services for the Pre-School aged child

By 12 months, most children will

- understand their own name
- understand words like "bye-bye" or "up"
- say sounds like "ba ba, no no, go go"
- laugh and try to make sounds like you do

By 15 months, most children will:

- take turns making sounds
- say 2 or 3 words, but not clearly
- understand "no" and shake their head
- reach or point to something they want while making a sound
- understand simple questions or directions like "where is your nose?", "show me your shoe"

When to call for help

Your child does not use words and sounds, but gestures to tell you what he or she wants

By 18 months, most children will:

- understand words and point to parts of their bodies like "nose, ear"
- will look for things when asked to, like "get your hat"
- make new gestures and/or words like you do make gestures or ask for "more" or "again"
- By 18 months a child's speech is normally 25% intelligible

When to call for help

Your child does not make gestures and sounds like you do

Your child started to use words, but stopped

By 24 months, most children will:

- understand more than they can say
- say 2 words together, like "more milk"
- say "what's that?" (may sound like "who dot? ' or "whassat?")
- can pick one thing out from a group of objects, such as a cup
- follow directions such as "drink your juice " or "sit down, please"
- By 24 months a child's speech is normally 50 -75% intelligible

When to call for help

You have a hard time understanding what your child says
Your child uses very few words or does not put words together.

By 2 to 3 years, most children will:

- use short sentences, like "me do it", daddy going car"
- follow simple directions, like "Put the teddy bear to bed"
- place something in the right spot if you say to put it "in", "on", "under"
- have a conversation with family members or other familiar people

- listen to stories and answer simple questions begin to add endings to words, such as running, toys
- By 36 months a child's speech is normally 75-100% intelligible
- Can say p m w h b n d t ng k g y sounds in words

When to call for help

Your child acts frustrated when trying to talk.

You have a hard time understanding what your child says

Your child does not put more than 2 words together

Your child does not listen well

Your child stutters. Stuttering is not a normal part of learning to talk

By 3 to 4 years, most children will:

- use sentences of 4 to 6 words
- give directions like "fix this for me"
- ask and understands many questions like what, where, or why
- tell about things they have done
- talk to themselves and their toys
- tell a story or sing a song
- tell you when they are tired
- can say f l sh ch sounds in words, may have difficulty with s

When to call for help

Your child repeats words but does not seem to understand.

Other people have a hard time understanding what your child says

Your child uses words in an unusual way.

By 5 years, most children will:

- use sentences that sound almost like an adult
- be able to say most speech sounds correctly may have difficulty with "r", "v" and "th"
- explain what familiar words mean
- use sentences to describe objects and events, as well as tell stories
- explain how to solve a simple problem
- follow related directions, like "get your crayons, make a picture, and put it on the fridge"

When to call for help

Your child does not use complete sentences

Your child does not like talking to other children

Your child has trouble following directions

If you have any concerns and feel further investigation by a speech pathologist is warranted, please contact Peninsula Speech Pathology Services to discuss your concerns further