

Communication development

A SPEECH AND LANGUAGE GUIDE
FOR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS



What is speech-Language pathology?

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP) assist children who are experiencing difficulties acquiring communication skills. This booklet aims to increase awareness about communication disorders in children and how they affect learning. It also provides guidelines to help parents, caregivers, and educators determine when a referral for speech-language pathology services is appropriate. If a need for SLP services is identified, SLPs can assist with the development of communication skills through:

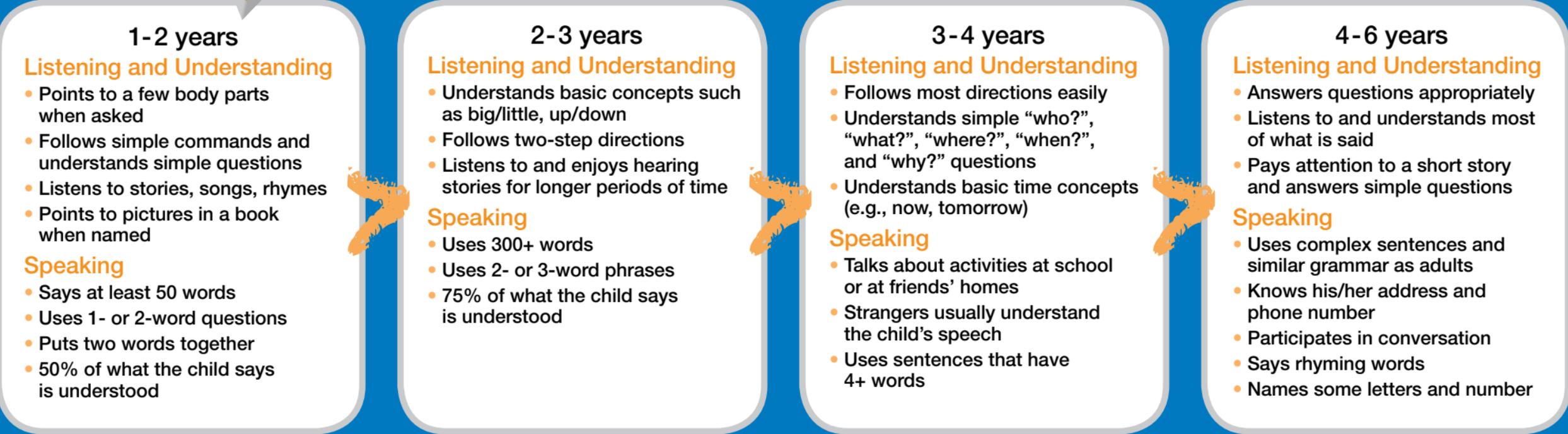
- Direct therapy
- Parent/caregiver training and education
- Consultation and collaboration with educators for accommodations and strategies to improve the child's ability to learn, as well as improve academic performance



What is COMMUNICATION?

- SPEAKING
 - ARTICULATING SPEECH
 - EXPRESSING LANGUAGE
- LISTENING AND UNDERSTANDING
- READING
- WRITING

Early communication development



Speech development

Consonants acquisition is variable from one child to the next. The adjacent chart demonstrates the age range in which each consonant can appear. The table below provides you with a guideline to follow when considering a referral to speech-language pathology.

AGE RANGE	SOUNDS	THERAPY INDICATED
Under 3 years	/ p, b, n, m, t, d, w, h / and vowels	3 years
3 - 5 years	/ k, g, -ng, y, f /	3½ years
3½ - 4 years	/ s, z, s-blends /	4 years
4 - 4½ years	/ sh, l, l-blends /	4½ years
4½ - 5 years	/ ch, j /, lateral lisps	5 years
5+ years	/ r, r-blends, th, v /	6+ years

SPEECH SOUNDS

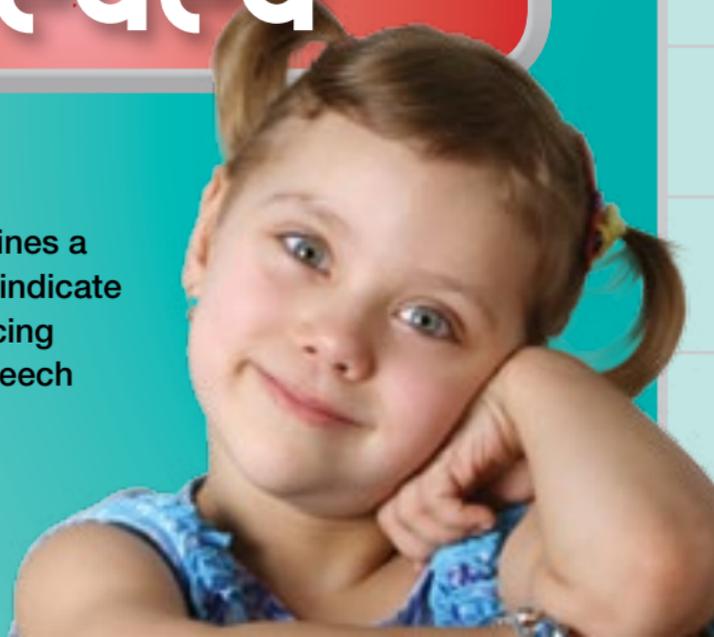


Taken from (Lanza & Flahive, 2008)

Data from Sander (1972)

When help may be Needed²

The adjacent chart outlines a list of signs which may indicate that a child is experiencing difficulties acquiring speech and/or language skills.



AGE	THERAPY MAY BE INDICATED IF THE CHILD...
18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not use at least 6-10 words consistently Does not hear well or differentiate between sounds
20 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not use at least 6 consonant sounds Does not follow simple directions
24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a vocabulary of less than 50 words Has decreased interest in social interactions
36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has difficulty being understood by persons who don't know him or her Does not use simple sentences

Concept development

CATEGORY	1-2 YEARS	2-3 YEARS	3-4 YEARS	4-5 YEARS	5+ YEARS	
Spatial	in on up/down	together/away from	towards apart top next to between	beside around high	bottom low nearest through first/middle/last	left/right backward/forward
Temporal		soon later wait		today first/then/next	yesterday tomorrow	
Quantity / Quality	another	one two some all	a lot same less than empty/full	small both	thin each short/long different	large whole
Attribute		big/little colours (some)	colours	simple comparative adjectives (big, bigger, etc.)	complex comparative adjectives (loud, louder, etc.)	

Phonological awareness



- 0-2 years:**
 - Exposed to rhyming
- 2-5 years:**
 - Segment words in sentences, syllables in words, and sounds in words
 - Isolate sounds at the beginning of words
- 5-7 years:**
 - Isolate sounds in the middle and end of words
 - Blend sounds to form words
 - Manipulate words by deleting and substituting sounds to create new words

Why Is It Important?
Phonological awareness skills are fundamental for reading. Through word play, children recognize word patterns and learn to read by building words with these skills.

Literacy development³

AGE RANGE	READING	WRITING
5-7 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decodes by identifying sounds for printed letters and blends sounds to form words Learns some words by sight Independently reads picture books for pleasure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learns conventionally spelled words Learns to spell using sound segmentation and identifying the correct letter associated with each sound
7-9 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learns more sight words Learns phonic patterns (e.g., silent “e”) Reading becomes more fluent Introduced to reading comprehension Reads chapter books and non-fiction for pleasure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learns irregular spelling patterns (e.g., “-ight”) Knows a larger repertoire of spelled words Writes with similar level of complexity as speech Writing style is mixed between oral and literate Narrative writing mode dominates
9-12 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluent reader Decodes efficiently and automatically Comprehension becomes the focus Reads for information and pleasure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing style is consistently literate, with complex subordinate clauses Persuasive and expository writing modes are introduced



For more information

Our group of Speech-Language Pathologists is composed of highly qualified and experienced health professionals who are regulated by the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario, and are certified members of the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists, and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

Rehab First is committed to providing comprehensive services to clients. Our clinicians work collaboratively with other professionals and clients' other natural supports (e.g. educational support staff, medical and rehabilitation professionals, parents, etc.). Our approach ensures clients achieve optimal functioning in a variety of environments, including school, home and the community. Consultation, education and parent/caregiver training are also provided to develop strategies and promote success with treatment goals. Services are provided in our offices, clients' homes, schools, or other community locations as needed. We also provide treatment sessions outside of school and work hours to reduce potential disruption to our clients' schedules.

References

- 1 How Does Your Child Hear and Talk? Speech, Language, and Hearing Developmental Milestones From Birth to 5 Years. (n.d.). American Speech-Language-Hearing Association ASHA. Retrieved September 13, 2013, from <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/chart.htm>
- 2 Lanza, J. R., & Flahive, L. K. (2008). Guide to communication milestones: concepts, feeding, morphology, literacy, mean length of utterance, phonological awareness, pragmatics, pronouns, questions, speech sound acquisition, vocabulary. East Moline, IL: LinguiSystems.
- 3 Paul, R. (2007). Language Disorders from Infancy Through Adolescence. St. Louis, MO: Mosby Elsevier.

Extended health care and other insurance will often cover the cost of Speech-Language Pathology services. Please contact our intake co-ordinators at (519) 646-2949 for an initial telephone consultation or for further information regarding our services.



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