

Do You Need a Speech-Language Pathologist?

Any Age

- Swallowing/Feeding Issues-** Choking, gagging, or coughing when eating/drinking, difficulty chewing, poor weight gain, recurring pneumonia or respiratory infections
- Voice-** prolonged periods of hoarseness, abnormal vocal quality, too loud or soft
- Hearing-** child has a hearing loss
- Poor attention** –unable to sit with adult for short period of time
- Limited interest-** in people and other children, limited eye contact
- Loss in previously acquired skills-** stops using words that he/she once used
- Frustration-** children who demonstrate negative behaviors often but are not using words to communicate thoughts/needs/desires as often.

By Seven Months

Refer to a speech-language pathologist if the child is NOT:

- Babbling
- Responding to sounds
- Looking at caregiver

By 18 Months

Refer to a speech-language pathologist if the child is NOT:

- Using any words
- Looking at familiar objects or people when named

By 2 Years

Refer to a speech-language pathologist if the child is NOT:

- Using words
- Following directions
- Saying more every month
- Playing

By 3 Years

Refer to a speech-language pathologist if the child is NOT:

- Using 2-3 words together
- Playing pretend games
- Following two part directions (go get cup and bring it to me)
- Using speech that is understandable by parent

Four and Above

Refer to a speech-language pathologist if the child is NOT:

- Using speech that is mostly understandable
- Answering (who, what, where, when, why) questions
- Following complex directions
- Remembering concepts (numbers, colors)
- Playing with other children
- Listening to book reading
- Using fluent speech (stuttering)

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