



Interior Health



Check your Child's Communication

BY FOUR YEARS

Does your child:

- Talk in whole sentences using adult-like grammar? Yes No
- Tell a story that is easy to follow? Yes No
- Ask many questions? Yes No
- Answer *who* and *how many* questions?..... Yes No
- Use *I, me, you, he, and she* properly?..... Yes No
- Start a conversation and continue it, staying on the same topic? Yes No
- Use language to create pretend situations when playing with others? Yes No
- Do people outside the family understand most of what your child says? Yes No

BY FIVE YEARS

Does your child:

- Explain how an object can be used? Yes No
- Answer *when* and *why* questions?..... Yes No
- Talk about past, future, and imaginary events? Yes No
- Participate in long, detailed conversations? Yes No
- Do people outside the family understand what your child says? Yes No

You should also refer your child to one of the agencies below if:

- You are concerned about his/her speech, language, or hearing development.
- His/her speech and language skills have not improved over the past six months.
- He/she often repeats sounds and/or words (stutters).
- His/her voice sounds different/odd to you.
- His/her play or social interactions seems inappropriate.
- He/she has a diagnosis such as cleft lip/palate, hearing loss, PDD/Autism, developmental delay and is not already receiving services.
- You are concerned about his/her hearing (refer to Interior Health Audiology).

**Is your child's speech and language typical?
Use this checklist as a guide.**

Please call Preschool Speech & Language Services if:

- You checked **NO** to any of the questions in your child's age range.
- You want to refer your child.
- You want to ask a question about how your child is talking or understanding language.
- You want information about speech & language development.

Don't delay! Helping your child at an early age is very important for future success.

BY THREE MONTHS

Does your child:

- Startle to a sudden sound?..... Yes No
- Make sounds? (*oo,ah*) Yes No
- Look at you with interest when you talk to her/him? Yes No
- Smile in response to you? Yes No

BY SIX MONTHS

Does your child:

- Turn to where a sound is coming from? Yes No
- Make several different sounds? (*squeals, grunts, "da", "ga"*)... Yes No
- Try to get your attention by looking at your face and/or making sounds? Yes No
- Make sounds and smile in response to your facial expressions and sounds?..... Yes No

BY NINE MONTHS

Does your child:

- Reach out to be picked up? Yes No
- Respond to his/her name?..... Yes No
- Make *speech-like* sounds? (*baba, gaga*) Yes No
- Babble tunefully (sing-song voice) while playing alone? Yes No
- Turn to where a voice is coming from? Yes No
- Take turns making sounds back and forth with you?..... Yes No
- Understand *no*? Yes No

BY TWELVE MONTHS

Does your child:

- Use a finger to point out things to you in the environment?..... Yes No
- Imitate or use gestures like waving bye-bye? Yes No
- Let you know what he/she wants by using a combination of sounds and actions? Yes No
- Bring you toys to show and/or play with? Yes No
- Enjoy playing games like *Peek-a-boo* and *Pat-a-cake* and will sometimes start the game? Yes No
- Understand some simple phrases? (*Come here. Don't touch.*)..... Yes No

BY FIFTEEN MONTHS

Does your child:

- Say one or two words?..... Yes No
- Shake his/her head for *yes & no*? Yes No
- Repeat words he/she hears?..... Yes No
- Seem to be talking in sentences but not using real words? Yes No
- Usually look at you when communicating? Yes No
- Understand some simple questions and commands? (*Go get a diaper. Where's the ball?*) Yes No

BY EIGHTEEN MONTHS

Does your child:

- Point, look at you, and then at what he/she is talking about? Yes No
- Say at least eighteen words? (*mom, no, juice, kitty*) Yes No
- Understand the names of familiar objects? (*ball, light, bed, car*) Yes No
- Sometimes answer the question *What's this?* Yes No
- Take turns in play? (e.g., passing a ball back and forth) Yes No
- Use toys for pretend play? (e.g., feeds doll, talks on phone)..... Yes No
- Point to some body parts when asked? Yes No

BY TWO YEARS

Does your child:

- Understand more than he/she can say? Yes No
- Use descriptive words? (*hungry, big, hot*) Yes No
- Use two words together? (*me go, more cookie*) Yes No
- Ask questions like *What dat?*..... Yes No
- Enjoy listening to simple stories?..... Yes No

BY THREE YEARS

Does your child:

- Follow two-part directions? (*Go to the kitchen and get your cup.*) Yes No
 - Participate in short conversations? Yes No
 - Use sentences of three or more words most of the time? Yes No
 - Talk about something that happened in the recent past? Yes No
 - Ask *what* and *where* questions? Yes No
- Do people outside the family understand more than 1/2 of what your child says? Yes No