

Speech and Language Disorders

What is it?

Speech: Refers to articulation, or the movement of the articulator's lips, tongue, cheeks and soft palate, to produce sounds and combinations of sounds. Typically, by about six months, a child is using a variety of sounds (some consonants and some vowels) in vocal play. By one year, a child is usually combining sounds into a few words or word-like appointments. By the age of two, most speech is intelligible but usually not precise. Accurate productions of sounds continue to improve as the child grows.

Language: Includes several areas including understanding information, processing information and exercising words or gestures. Direction following, vocabulary, grammar, understanding of concepts and emotions are all part of language.

What are the symptoms?

By nine months – Responds to his/her name, plays peek-a-boo, uses babbling sounds that sound like real speech.

By one year – Says two to three words to fulfill needs and get attention of others, understands simple instructions.

By 18 months – Uses 10-12 words, combines two words, points to a few body parts.

By two years – Is using 300 words, uses simple two and three word sentences, enjoys books and listens to stories with pictures, listens to the meaning of words.

By three years – Understands words related to concepts such as color, size, time of day, position, uses 1000 words and uses three or four word sentences.

How is it treated?

Children will vary in their rate of development. However, if you have any questions or concerns that your child may not be developing speech and language skills at an appropriate rate, call the speech-language pathologists at the Pediatric Therapy Center for suggestions.