



When Your Child is Learning to **TALK**

Development of communication skills begins in infancy even before the emergence of words. This information is the typical age at which most speaking children acquire the listed skills.*

If your child has not accomplished most of the skills within an age range, you should consider the advice of a certified Speech Language Pathologist.

What to Expect

1 By one year:

- Babbles a variety of speech-like sounds; imitates different speech sounds.
- Uses speech sounds to get and keep attention; seeks eye contact.
- Has one or two words (mama, dada, ball) although may not be clear.
- Enjoys interactive games such as peekaboo/pat-a-cake, waves bye-bye.
- Recognizes words for common objects/ begins to respond to requests.

2 By two years:

- Learns more words every month.
- Puts two words together; uses 1-2 word questions.
- Has a variety of consonant sounds at the beginning of words.
- Points to a few body parts on self and pictures in books.
- Listens to simple stories/songs.
- Follows simple commands.
- Plays appropriately with most toys.

3 By three years:

- Has a word for most things.
- Uses 2-3 word phrases and speech is understood most of the time.
- Follows two requests and understands differences in meaning (in-on, big-little).
- Plays appropriately with toys and is proficient with pretend play.

4
By four years:

- Understands simple “wh” questions
- Talks about activities/uses sentences with 4 or more words; understands opposites.
- Speech is fluent and clear/understood by people outside of the family.
- Interacts and communicates with family and peers easily.

5
By five years:

- Attends to short stories and can answer simple questions about it.
- Uses sentences with a lot of detail.
- Communicates easily with others.
- Says most sounds correctly (except for l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th).
- Uses the same grammar as the rest of the family; uses pronouns consistently/correctly.

Language is different from speech.

If your child has trouble understanding others or following directions he/she may have a **receptive language** disorder. If your child has trouble sharing their thoughts, ideas or feelings, he/she may have an **expressive language** disorder. If your child is unable to produce speech sounds correctly or fluently then he/she may have a **speech disorder**. Language and speech disorders can exist together or by themselves and can range from mild to severe.

Speech and language difficulties are likely to have an effect on your child’s social skills, behavior and academic success. The earlier speech and language difficulties are identified and treated, the less likely it is that the problems will persist or get worse. Early speech and language intervention can help children be more successful with peer relationships, managing their behavior and overall communication, as well as, reading, writing and other academic tasks.

A **comprehensive evaluation** is the first step to remediating language and speech problems. For more information, contact:



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Please call our office at 512-467-7006
or visit us online at capitolschool.com.

* Source: American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)