



When to Call: Does your infant need Speech Language Therapy?

Early detection and early intervention can help your infant make faster progress and lead to better outcomes. Skills learned in early childhood development are the foundational building blocks for more complex speech, language and feeding skills to be developed later. **We recommend consulting with a Speech Language Therapist if your infant has difficulty with these skills related to language and feeding:**



Language

Consider speech language therapy if your infant is not doing the following at the specified age ranges:

Birth to three months:

- Is not startled by sound
- Does not quiet or smile when spoken to

Four to six months:

- Does not move eyes toward sounds
- Does not respond to changes in adult voices
- Is not attentive to music or toys that make noise
- Is not babbling or making sounds to express pleasure or displeasure

Seven to 12 months:

- Does not play games such as peek-a-boo
- Does not seem to recognize words for familiar objects like "cup," "shoe," or "book"
- Does not stop to listen when being spoken to or does not respond to simple requests like "come here"
- Is not using speech or gestures to gain attention or ask for something
- Has less than two words or is not imitating words



Feeding

Consider speech language therapy if your infant has difficulty with any of the following:

- Breast or bottle feeding
- Increasing negative behaviors (crying, screaming, head turning, arching, refusal) associated with feeding
- Gagging, choking or coughing during feeding
- Limited or poor intake
- Food refusal or selectivity
- Inadequate or slow weight gain
- Swallowing difficulties
- Sensitive to certain flavors or textures in their mouth
- Lack of oral feeding experiences