

Recognizing red flags of communication disorders in children

Children may benefit from speech-language therapy to aid their communication skills. It can be difficult to determine who is appropriate to refer for an evaluation. The following are 'red flags' of a communication disorder:

6 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not laugh and squeal • Does not look toward new sounds
9 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has limited or no babbling • Does not indicate when happy or upset
12 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not point to objects • Does not use gestures such as waving or shaking head
15 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has not used first word • Does not respond to "no" and "bye-bye"
18 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not use at least six to ten words consistently • Does not hear well or discriminate between sounds
20 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not use at least six consonant sounds • Does not follow simple directions
24 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a vocabulary of less than 50 words • Has decreased interest in social interactions
36 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strangers have difficulty understanding the child • Does not use simple sentences

It is important to refer children for a speech-language evaluation if there are any concerns regarding their speech and language development. Early detection is crucial! Without it, treatment takes longer and is more expensive.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact us at:

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