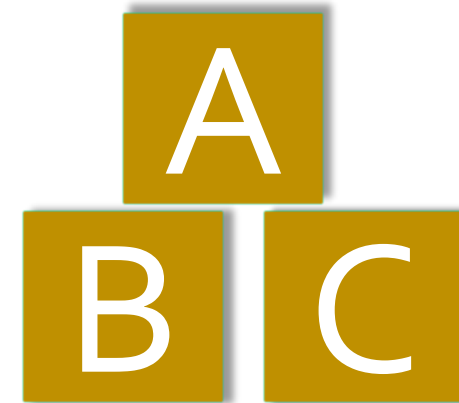


**TRACKING AND ENCOURAGING YOUR  
CHILD'S LANGUAGE GROWTH  
0-5 YEARS**

# HANDOUT CONTENT

## Typical Language Growth Milestones and Supportive Techniques You Can Use Within...

- ❖ 0-6 Months
- ❖ 7-12 Months
- ❖ 1-2 Years
- ❖ 3-5 Years
- ❖ What To Do If You Suspect An Issue During These Age Ranges



# 0-6 MONTHS

## At This Stage Your Child Should...

- ❖ Communicate through gazing and head turning
- ❖ Be able to tell difference between people and respond accordingly
- ❖ Possess a “social” smile around three months
- ❖ Begin cooing around three months
- ❖ Respond physically as well as vocally to the voice and presence of others
- ❖ Start engaging in “protoconversations” with others. These involve made up words with intonation and emotion mimicking a real conversation.

# 0-6 MONTHS

## What You Can Do To Encourage Your Child's Language Growth

- ❖ Modify your own behavior to appropriately engage with your child
- ❖ Use exaggerated and drawn-out facial expressions and voices
- ❖ Find and create opportunities to talk and verbally engage with your child
  - Opportunities include singing, reading, and talking the about surrounding environment around you and your child
- ❖ Establish joint reference or focus on a specific item together and talk about it
- ❖ Use Motherese and Infant Directed Speech (IDS)
  - Both of which are tailored to your child's growth and development. Motherese or IDS is speech that is purposefully clear, slow, filled with emotion, frequently uses repetition, and is simplistic in nature.

# 7-12 MONTHS

## At This Stage Your Child Should...

- ❖ Be able to vocalize either a single or combination of a vowel and consonant when playing or interacting with you
- ❖ Begin to engage in babbling “mamamama” or “dadadada”
- ❖ Start using Echolalia (repeating sounds/words spoken by others)
- ❖ Be able to respond to “no,” their name, and to familiar phrases
- ❖ Begin to produce their first word around twelve months

# 7-12 MONTHS

## What You Can Do To Encourage Your Child's Language Growth

- ❖ Use Motherese and Infant Directed Speech (IDS)
  - Both of which are tailored to your child's growth and development
- ❖ Elaborate and provide commentary on the shared activities you and your child do together while using modified speech for your child
- ❖ Maintain the communication framework when you talk with your child by altering your speech and delivery so that allow your child time to understand the words being presented to them

# 1-2 YEARS

## At This Stage Your Child Should...

- ❖ Begin to name single word items and have a vocabulary that reflects the environment around them
- ❖ Start to create two-word combinations around 18 months
- ❖ Experience a “vocabulary spurt” around 18-24 months
- ❖ Begin to use small, partially complete sentences

# 1-2 YEARS

## What You Can Do To Encourage Your Child's Language Growth

- ❖ Engage in vocabulary and language rich activities
  - Reading, singing, nursery rhymes, play
- ❖ Explain and discuss items you interact with throughout the day
- ❖ Respond to the questions that begin to appear at this age range
- ❖ Even asking open ended questions yourself is beneficial for your child's language growth
- ❖ Begin to start your first true "conversations" with your child



# 3-5 YEARS

## At This Stage Your Child Should...

- ❖ Be able to participate in short conversation that lengthen during your child's growth through this period
- ❖ Engage in imaginative monologues and stories
- ❖ Be starting to understand the Noun – Verb – Object pattern of English
- ❖ Start to use plural and possessive "-s," "-ing," and "-ed"
- ❖ While there may be mistakes such as the common "goed," it is nothing to be afraid or concerned about during this language "trial period" for you child

# 3-5 YEARS

## What You Can Do To Encourage Your Child's Language Growth

- ❖ Conversations that your child participates in has a dramatic role in the development of their language
- ❖ Set up play dates
- ❖ Verbally engage with your child when participating in daily activities
- ❖ Explore and teach about the world around you
- ❖ Promote conversations and questions that stimulate your child's brain and provide an opportunity for learning
- ❖ Use "Turnabouts" (A response that answers your child's question while also requests for information)

# WHAT TO DO IF AN ISSUE IS SUSPECTED

## Some Things To Consider

- ❖ It is important to note that not all children will portray the developmental markers during their respective age ranges
- ❖ Do not be overly concerned if your child has not developed a specific developmental milestone
- ❖ It is important to look at your child's language growth under a holistic, or broad, view instead of focusing on one, single developmental aspect
- ❖ Usually, problems or deficits in multiple aspects of language and cognitive development are important indicators that there could be a developmental issue

# WHAT TO DO IF AN ISSUE IS SUSPECTED

## Resources You Can Use If An Issue With Your Child's Language Development Is Suspected

- ❖ The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) provides assistance by...
  - [Listing methods to encourage language development](#)
  - [Listing normal aspects of language development and how language disorders can be identified in children](#)
  - [Offering ASHA ProFind](#)
- ❖ [Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing](#)
- ❖ [Institutes For The Achievements Of Human Potential](#)
- ❖ Early intervention does play a dramatic role in the treatment of a speech, language, communication, and hearing disorders

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