

Sensory Connections Therapy Services

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DOES YOUR TODDLER NEED TO SEE A SPEECH PATHOLOGIST?

The following information has been provided to help you determine whether or not your child might need to have an assessment with a speech pathologist. It is important to note that this information is general and provided as a guide only. Each child develops at a different rate and therefore just because your child is 'not' doing something does not always mean that there is cause for concern. In general we recommend that if you have any concerns about your child's development (no matter how small) that you seek professional support and guidance.

General indicators that your toddler (18 months to 3 years old) would benefit from a speech pathology assessment: Challenges in understanding and listening

- Has difficulty following simple directions accompanied by gestures (e.g. does not stop when mum says "stop" and puts her hand out to gesture 'stop', does not come over when dad says "come here" and puts his arms out wide).
- Needs frequent repetition of instructions or demonstrations.
- Visual and auditory attention appears fleeting and/or unfocused.
- Shows inappropriate answers to very simple "wh" questions such as where is mum? What is that?
- Cannot locate 3-4 body parts on self when named.
- Difficulty understanding spatial concepts (in, on, etc.)
- Does not show interest in nor listen to frequently repeated nursery rhymes, jingles, familiar routines (like peek-a-boo).

Challenges in speaking and using language

- Does not point to recognized or wanted objects, pictures, or family members.
- Does not use 3 to 20 words spontaneously by the age of 2.
- Rarely imitates simple words or phrases.
- Has difficulty pronouncing most vowels and n, m, p, h, and other speech sounds.
- Is not starting to combine words (i.e. "more milk").
- Difficulty using spatial concepts (in, on, etc.).
- Speech is difficult to understand by caregivers, as well as strangers.
- Has a few or no gestures (e.g. bye bey, clap, blow a kiss)
- Has no clear "yes" or "no" response.
- Does not use name or personal pronoun to refer to self
- Does not sing simple songs or nursery rhymes.
- Does not use verbal greetings.
- Does not engage in imaginative play routines with toys (e.g. pretending to eat and feeding others, pushing a car and making car sounds, singing to a doll)

Comment [N1]: This is by the age of 2. Not sure if we should add "by the age of two" or keep it as is