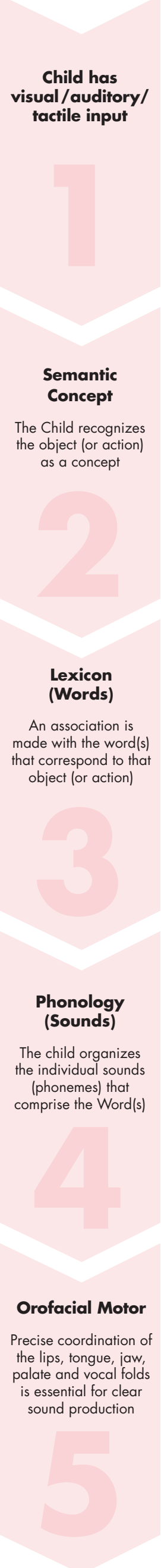


Office Guide to Paediatric Speech and Language Assessment

Sequence of speech and language skills acquisition



Word Milestones	
CHILD AGE	WORD COUNT
12 months	3-5
18 months	20
2 years	100-200 (2 word phrases)
2½ years	350 (3 word sentences)
3 years	700 + (5-8 word sentences)

Sound Milestones	
AGE	SOUNDS ACQUIRED
0-3 years	p, b, m, n, t, d, w, h & vowels
3½ years	k, g, f, y, ng
4 years	s, s-blends, z
4½ years	l, l-blends, sh
5 years	ch, j
8 years	v, th, r, r-blends

Types of Speech and Language Delays and Interventions

Age	Type	Clinical Presentation	Interventions
Earliest age of onset	Speech or Language Domain		Strategies to suggest to Parents with corresponding handouts
LANGUAGE			
12 months	Comprehension and Expressive Language	<p>A 'word' can be defined as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a spontaneous verbal utterance that is a recognizable approximation of the intended target word (e.g. "mama" for "mommy") a spontaneous physical gesture with firmly established meaning used in the appropriate context (e.g. vertical head nodding for "yes") 	<p>Be FACE TO FACE when communicating</p> <p>LABEL what interests your child</p> <p>JOIN IN PLAY with an excited voice and gestures</p> <p>SIMPLIFY YOUR LANGUAGE</p> <p>REPEAT new words frequently</p> <p>WAIT – don't speak for your child</p> <p>TURN QUESTIONS INTO COMMENTS that use new words</p> <p>INTERPRET AND ADD real words to replace jargon e.g. During feeding time: Child: "Umm-ah-bah." Parent: "Yes! Yummy milk."</p> <p>DON'T MIX THE LANGUAGES e.g. One parent speaks Language A and the other parent speaks Language B; Or a parent always speaks Language A except for bathtime, snack and storytime when they introduce Language B</p>
18 month well baby visit	Multi-Language Environments	Parent preference for home language preservation or the use of multiple languages with a child should be encouraged and word milestones applied.	
18 month well baby visit	Social Use of Language (Pragmatic Skills, Social Communication)	<p>Monitor for an impairment of social uses of verbal and nonverbal communication affecting the development of social relationships.</p> <p>Query interactive play, comprehension and effective communication</p>	<p>FOLLOW YOUR CHILD'S LEAD</p> <p>JOIN IN PLAY</p> <p>GIVE A REASON TO COMMUNICATE AND WAIT e.g. Put a desirable toy in sealable jar that requires your child to ask for help</p>
18 month well baby visit	Voice disorders	<p>Atypical changes in voice quality (e.g. hoarse, stridor)</p> <p>Query vocal behaviour and vocal fold pathology (e.g. nodules, polyps)</p>	<p>Reduce vocal abuse/stress (e.g. shouting, screaming)</p> <p>Refer to ENT</p>
18 month well baby visit	Motor Speech (Apraxia, Dyspraxia, Dysarthria, prolonged bottle/pacifier use, digit-sucking)	An impairment in motor planning as characterized by inaccurate and inconsistent orofacial movements critical to the production of intelligible speech	<p>REPETITION of target word to establish precise movement</p> <p>Deconstruct and simplify the difficult word to improve child's success e.g. For "up" try: 1. "uh" 2. "uh-p" 3. "uhp"</p>
SPEECH			
Therapy indicated at 3 yrs.	Articulation	<p>Poor speech intelligibility as characterized by omissions, substitutions, additions of individual sounds</p> <p>Child has not acquired target sounds by the appropriate age (see sound chart)</p> <p>Monitor for hearing loss, speech regression</p>	<p>LABELLING Isolate and label target sound</p> <p>SAY WHAT YOU THINK YOUR CHILD MEANS Encourage imitation of target sound through emphasis and example e.g. Child: "Look mom, tat." Parent: "Yes! It's a cat."</p>
Normal developmental variant in children earlier than 3 yrs.	Dysfluency (stuttering)	<p>Concomitant tension, struggle and sudden, repetitive, non-rhythmic motor movement (tics)</p> <p>Impediment to the flow of speaking</p> <p>Irregular rate, rhythm and repetition</p>	<p>TALK SLOWLY when speaking with your child</p> <p>BE PATIENT when listening to your child to help reduce their anxiety</p> <p>DO NOT TELL YOUR CHILD TO SLOW DOWN in order to help reduce anxiety</p>
Identify and monitor onset later than 3 yrs.			

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