

# DEVELOPMENTAL REFERRAL GUIDE

Child Should Be Able To:

Red Flags:

## SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY

### 1-3 years old

- Produce the following sounds: /p, b, d, m, n, h, w/ by **age 3**
- Use 2-3 word phrases
- Point to common objects and body parts
- Follow 1-2 step directions
- Use non-verbal gestures (e.g. wave "hi")
- Understand opposites and use action words
- **1 year** - use 2-6 words
- **15 months** - use 10 words
- **18 months** - use 50 words
- **2 years** - use 200-300 words
- **3 years** - use 1000 words

- No words or imitation by 15-18 months
- Not requesting help functionally
- Biting or hitting to communicate
- Not pointing to objects/body parts
- Not following basic directions
- Others understand less than 50-75% of their speech by age 2
- Others understand less than 75-100% of their speech by age 3
- Not copying others' actions
- Not engaging in simple pretend play
- Not looking to familiar adult to react to environment
- Not using 15-20 words by 18 months or 50+ words by 2 years

### 3-5 years old

- Produce /v, s, z, sh, ch, j, l/ sounds by **age 5**
- Produce /th (voiced), zh, r/ sounds by **6** & /th (voiceless)/ by **7**
- **3-4 years** - use 1000+ words
- Use 4-5 word phrases
- Answer simple 'who, what, where' ?s
- Use pronouns correctly (he, she, they)
- Use detailed sentences
- Follow 3-step directions
- Understand most of what they hear

- Uses filler words (thing, stuff)
- Not answering 'wh' questions (who, what, where, when, why)
- Not staying on conversation topic
- Not creating short stories or retelling past events
- Speech is understood less than 100% of the time by 4 years old
- Not following 2-3 part directions with time (before, after, first) or place (under, on, etc.)
- Not engaging in make-believe play ("birthday", "house", etc)
- Not able to identify objects by their use and body parts by their function (what do we eat with, what do we see with)

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

### 1-3 years old

- Exploratory and imaginative play
- Grasping and reaching
- Sensory-motor exploration
- Picks up small objects with thumb and finger
- Beginning independence in dressing & simple feeding skills
- Scribbles on paper

- Persistent mouthing of non-food items
- Difficulty using hands together (bilateral coordination issues)
- Limited interest in exploring environment
- Difficulty manipulating small objects (e.g., stacking blocks)
- Extreme sensitivity or avoidance of textures (sensory defensiveness)

### 3-5 years old

- Draws basic shapes using age appropriate grasp
- Ability to cut with scissors
- Dresses and undresses with minimal help
- Participates in group play, and follows simple rules
- Expands pretend play (more complex scenarios)

- Difficulty with dressing self (buttons, zippers)
- Avoidance of fine motor tasks (coloring, cutting)
- Poor balance and frequent falls
- Trouble following simple directions
- Preference for solitary play, difficulty engaging with peers
- Resistance to age-appropriate self-care (toileting, feeding)

SCAN ME!



Contact us:

