

# Infant Speech Therapy

## When to Refer: Does your infant need Speech Therapy?

Early detection and early intervention can help your infant make faster progress with better outcomes. Early developing skills are the building blocks for more complex speech, language, and feeding skills.

We recommend consulting with a Speech Therapist if your child has not met these milestones:



## Language

### Birth to 3 Months:

- Doesn't startle to sound
- Doesn't quiet or smile when spoken to

### 4-6 Months

- Does not move eyes toward sounds
- Doesn't responds to changes in adult voices
- Doesn't attend to music or toys that make noise
- Is not babbling or making sounds to express pleasure or displeasure

### 7-12 months

- Not playing games such as "peek-a-boo"
- Doesn't seem to recognize words for familiar objects (such as cup, shoe, or book)
- Does not stop to listen when being spoken to or does not respond to simple requests like "please come here"
- Is not using speech or gestures to gain attention or ask for something
- Has less than 2 words or is not imitating words

### 1-2 Years

- Can't identify some body parts
- Does not follow simple directions or answer simple questions
- Does not show interest in simple songs, stories, or rhymes
- Can't identify pictures in books
- Not saying new words every month
- Not putting 2 words together
- Less than 50 words by 24 months

## Feeding

- Difficulty with breast or bottle feeding
- Increasing negative behaviors (crying, screaming, head-turning, arching, refusal) associated with feeding
- Gagging, choking, or coughing during feeding
- Limited or poor intake
- Food refusal/selectivity
- Inadequate or slow weight gain
- Swallowing difficulties
- May appear sensitive to certain flavors or textures in their mouth.
- Lack of oral feeding experiences