

Pre-K Speech Therapy

When to Refer: Does your Preschooler need Speech Therapy?

Three- and four-year-olds develop rapidly in many areas, including acquiring vocabulary, refining how they say their sounds, grasping sentence structure, questioning their environment, and working on their social and play skills. Schedule an evaluation with a speech therapist if you have concerns in any of the following areas:



Language

2-3 years

- Not following 2-step directions (i.e. get the book and give it to me)
- Doesn't enjoy listening to stories for more than a few minutes
- Uses gestures more than words to ask for things
- Not combining 2-3 words
- Speech is not understood by familiar listeners
- Uses more vowels than consonants when speaking
- Child seems to be frustrated when they are not understood

3-4 years

- Responds when you call from another room
- Answers simple questions, such as who, what, where, when and why questions
- Not able to talk about things that happen to them
- People outside of the family cannot understand what they are saying
- Not speaking in sentences
- Speech includes frequent repetition of words and syllables

4-5 years

- Doesn't appear to understand most of what is said at home and at school
- Can't talk about books and stories they have just read
- Is not using sentences that contain lots of detail
- Can't communicate easily with children and adults
- Is not using rhyming words
- Can't tell a simple story

Feeding

- Having difficulty biting or chewing food during mealtime
- Needing a prolonged period of time to chew and/or swallow
- Difficulty swallowing liquids or solids

- Difficulty taking foods from a spoon or chewing foods
- Gagging, choking, or coughing during feeding
- Having significant difficulty transitioning between different food stages

- Difficulty sucking or drinking from a cup
- Demonstrating a change in vocal quality during/after eating (i.e. they sound gurgled or hoarse when speaking/making sounds)