



confident communicators

BURLINGTON SPEECH & LANGUAGE CLINIC

COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

12 MONTHS



COMMUNICATION

- Uses 3 or more words
- Uses gestures such as pointing, reaching, waving and shaking head "no"
- Follows simple one step directions. Looks toward an object when an adult points to it.
- Babbles using a variety of sounds.
- Shows interest in simple picture books

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION & PLAY

- Responds to their name
- Shares attention with an adult (e.g., looks at a toy, then back to the adult)
- Brings toys or objects to show caregivers
- Imitates simple actions such as clapping
- Enjoys simple social games such as peek-a-boo

18 MONTHS



COMMUNICATION

- Uses at least 20 words.
- Begins combining 2 words.
- Follows simple directions.
- Responds to simple yes/no and WH questions.
- Understands early concepts such as in/out and on/off.
- Points to several body parts. Uses a variety of speech sounds

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION & PLAY

- Points to share interest with others.
- Uses words or gestures to request, protest or ask for help.
- Engages in simple pretend play.
- Imitates adults and other children.
- Enjoys simple-turn taking games.
- Initiates interactions with familiar adults

2 YEARS



COMMUNICATION

- Uses 100 or more words
- Consistently combines 2 or more words
- Uses early pronouns such as you, me and mine
- Follows 2-step directions
- Speech is understood approximately 50-60% of the time

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION & PLAY

- Uses language for different purposes: requesting, protesting and commenting
- Begins short back forth interactions
- Uses simple greetings such as "hi" and "bye"
- Watches and imitates and begins interacting with other children
- Engages in pretend play

3 YEARS



COMMUNICATION

- Uses sentences of 5 or more words
- Asks and answers who, what, where and why questions
- Talks about past experiences
- Tells simple stories
- Speech is understood by unfamiliar listeners approximately 75-90% of the time

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION & PLAY

- Participates in longer back and forth conversations
- Takes turns during conversations
- Asks questions to continue interactions
- Develops friendships and shows awareness of others feelings
- Engages in imaginative play with other children
- Begins using language to solve problems during play

4 YEARS



COMMUNICATION

- Follows directions involving 3 or more steps
- Uses increasingly-adult like grammar
- Tells stories with a beginning, middle and end
- Speech is understood by unfamiliar listeners almost all of the time

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION & PLAY

- Participates in conversations with several back and forth turns
- Engages in cooperative play
- Takes turns and shares with increasing independence
- Uses language to negotiate and solve problems with peers
- Begins understanding simple humour
- Shows increasing awareness of other people's thoughts and feelings

5 YEARS



COMMUNICATION

- Follows group / classroom directions
- Understands more complex "if ... then" directions
- Describes past, present and future events in detail
- Uses almost all speech sounds of their first language with few to no errors

SOCIAL COMMUNICATION & PLAY

- Holds conversations for several turns and generally stays on topic
- Understands conversational rules such as waiting, listening and responding
- Participates in group play and games
- Uses language to negotiate and resolve conflicts
- Shows increasing understanding of others' perspectives and feelings
- Uses humour and imagination in conversations
- Adjusts communication for different people and situations
- Understands basic social expectations in school or daycare

A NOTE FOR PARENTS

Every child develops at their own pace. Milestones provide a guide--not a test. If you have any concerns about your child's speech, language or social communication development, a Speech-Language Pathologist can help. Early support can make a big difference!



Scan for more info and resources

Helping children of all ages become
confident communicators



289-237-5336



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Serving Burlington and surrounding areas

