

YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION: WHEN TO BE CONCERNED



As a parent, you know your child best, but it is easy to wonder if your child may have a speech and/or language delay. Children learn to communicate at their own pace, but there are general skills that most children acquire by certain ages. If you find you are noticing your child is not demonstrating the majority of skills listed at each age range below, consider reaching out to your pediatrician or a local speech-language pathologist for guidance. The information below is from Hanen.org, "When should parents be concerned."

By 12 months old your child:

- Is not babbling with changes in tone
- Is not gesturing such as waving Bye or shaking his/her head for "no"
- Is not responding to his/her name
- Is not attempting to communicate in some way when he/she needs help

By 15 months old your child:

- Is not understanding words like "no" or "up"
- Is not pointing to objects or pictures when you ask, "Where's the ____"
- Is not pointing as if he/she is saying "look at that" then look at you to acknowledge you followed and noticed

By 18 months your child:

- Is not understanding commands like "don't touch"
- Is not using 20 single words such as "mommy" or "up"
- Is not responding with a word or a gesture like when asked, "what's that" or "where's the ____"
- Is not pointing to 2-3 body parts such as the head, eyes, nose or feet

By 24 months your child:

- Is not saying 100 words or more
- Is not combining two words together
- Is not imitating actions or words of others
- Is not pretending with toys such as feeding a doll or making a toy figure drive a toy car

By 30 months your child:

- Is not saying at least 300 words
- Is not using action words like run, eat, fall
- Is not using some adult like grammar/sentence structure such as "two babies"
- Between 3 and 4 years old:
 - Asking questions by 3-years old
 - Using sentences