



## LANGUAGE DISORDERS

Language is a code made up of rules that include what words mean, how to put them together and what combination of words are most appropriate in certain situations. Speech is the oral form of language. A language disorder is a disturbance in the acquisition or application of the rules of language.

### *Suggestions for the 2-4 year old child*

- ❖ Use good, clear speech and avoid "baby talk". Use "baby" words only when paired with the "adult" word. "It's time for num num. Let's have lunch".
- ❖ Repeat what your child says to you and expand on it by 1 - 2 words.
- ❖ Ask forced choice questions, "Do you want a cookie or juice?". This gives your child an opportunity to use that word and make their needs known.
- ❖ Keep photographs of family member and recent events available. Encourage your child to retell stories of activities they have done, or make up stories using the pictures.
- ❖ Continue to expand your child's vocabulary. Name objects, pictures, and body parts. Keep a scrapbook of magazine pictures of new vocabulary for your child to learn from.
- ❖ Encourage your child to describe objects; what they look like, what the object does or what it is used for.
- ❖ Sing nursery rhymes with your child to introduce the rhythm of speech.
- ❖ Read books with your child. After you have read the story, give the book to your child and ask him/her to read it to you.
- ❖ Use computer and television time to interact with your child. Talk about what is happening on the screen. Help them make predictions of what they think will happen next.
- ❖ Play memory games and "I Spy" with your child.
- ❖ Talk about groups of words or categories. Play games to see how many things in one category each of you can think of (animals, food, clothes, toys)
- ❖ Model complete sentences back to your child. When they use an incomplete or grammatically incorrect sentence, repeat that sentence back to them with emphasis on the new words or the corrected grammar.
- ❖ Encourage your child to problem solve in situations that happen around the house.
- ❖ Remember to use positive reinforcement and praise with your child. He will be more willing to please you and do more for and with you.

- ❖ Make time for "Floor time" with your child to play with them. Remember to keep their perspective in mind during play. Try to put yourself in a 2, 3, or 4 year old position and play as they would, not how you think they should play with a particular toy.
- ❖ Imitate what they do and "Take their lead" during play activities. This will show them that you are truly interested in what they are doing or saying so they will be more apt to interact with you and communicate with you.

**Resources:**

Manoloson, Ayala (1992). It Takes Two to Talk: A Parent Guide to Helping Children Communicate. Toronto, Ontario, Canada. The Hanen Centre

**Children's Books:**

Any book in the "Spot" series by Eric Hill

Pattern Books (Those with repeating phrases throughout the book)

- Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See by Eric Carle and Bill Martin, Jr.
- Polar Bear Polar Bear What Do You Hear by Eric Carle and Bill Martin, Jr.
- Very Busy Spider by Eric Carle
- Arthur "lift the flap" books.

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