



LANGUAGE DELAY

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 birth to 2 year old

- ❖ Make time for one on one play time with your child. During this time let your child lead in the play activities and follow their lead.
- ❖ Comment about what your child appears to be interested in and not what you think he/she should be interested
- ❖ Keep your comments during play equal to what your child is doing. If your child is using single words, then use mostly single words and 2 word phrases during play. By doing this you are giving many examples of some phrases your child can use on their own or ones that your child is more likely to imitate. If your comments are long and more complicated, your child is less likely to imitate or use what you have modeled for them.
- ❖ Imitate the sounds and movements your child makes. This will let them know that you are interested in what they do and say. (Even if it is only sounds and babbling.)
- ❖ Encourage your child to imitate animal and environmental sounds. For example, a panting sound for a dog, or raspberries for a car.
- ❖ Use gestures to help convey meaning (waving "bye-bye", or putting a hand to the mouth to indicate "eat")
- ❖ Use simple words and phrases during play. For example, while playing catch with a ball, model the word "ball", and then pause for a few seconds giving your child the opportunity to imitate the word. Then throw the ball to them. Repeat the word "ball" again when she is ready to throw it back. Remember always give your child the opportunity to imitate your vocalizations by giving a few seconds of pause time after you label an object.
- ❖ Use language expansion during your conversations with your child. Repeat what they have said to you and expand their utterance. For example, your child says "Doggie" you repeat, "Yes, Big Dog. Hi Big Doggie." Take what your child says and expand on it by one or two words.
- ❖ Read to your child. This does not have to be reading the words that are printed in the book. Look at the pictures together and encourage your child to label the pictures, and point to the ones you have labeled.
- ❖ Encourage them to count and identify colors and body parts.

RESOURCES

Acredolo, Linda and Goodwyn, Susan, 1996 Baby Signs: How to Talk to Your Baby Before Your Baby Can Talk, Contemporary Books, Chicago, IL.

Acredolo, Linda and Goodwyn, Susan, 2004 Baby Signs: Nurturing Little Hearts and Minds, Baby signs, Inc. and Discovery Toys, Inc. *These are children's books and can be purchased through:*

www.babysigns.com or

www.discoverytoysinc.com or

by calling 1.800.341.TOYS (8697)

Manoloso, 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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