

When to Suspect Your Child has a Speech or Hearing Problem

The first few years of a child's life are particularly critical for speech and language development. Here's what to watch for:

Speech: When your **18 month old** does not: use 10 or more words to communicate.... follow simple commands.... imitate words and sounds. When your **two year old** does not use two or more word sentences to express himself..... understand concepts like up, down, big little or try to say his own name. When your **three year old** is not easily understood by an adult friend outside the family.... does not use "me or you" in speech... does not ask questions using "what"..... is not pronouncing the m, n, ng, p, f, or h sound in words or is not using three to four word sentences.

Hearing: When your **newborn** does not: respond to noises at three months.... look towards a speaker or sound at three to six months.... smile when spoken to at three to six months or vocalize and babble alone or with others at three to six months. When your **18 month old** does not point and gesture to call attention to objects or events..... does not use words to get what he wants or continuously pulls at ears. When your **three year old** turns up the television or radio louder than other family members or does not hear you call from another room.

One in ten Canadians has a speech, language, or hearing disorder. If you suspect a problem, contact a professional. Check the yellow pages or visit our Web site www.caslpa.ca to find a speech-language pathologist or audiologist near you.

May is Speech & Hearing Month!

Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists -Caring About Communication!