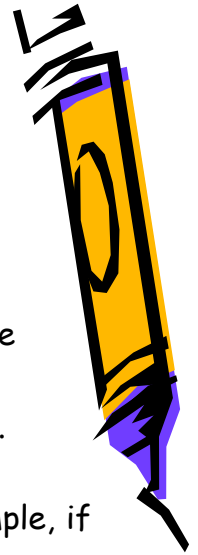


Speech and Hearing Information for You and Your Child



Speech and Language:

- ❖ Take time to listen and talk to your child, beginning at birth.
- ❖ Spend time reading to your child each day. Reading with your child is one of the best ways to help develop speech and language skills.
- ❖ Talk naturally to your child; talk about what you and your child are doing.
- ❖ Imitate your child's speech and motor actions.
- ❖ Expand speech by adding more words to what your child says (for example, if your child says *car*, you say *car - red car*).
- ❖ Play with your child, following his or her lead to choose the activity.
- ❖ Take turns with your child, waiting for him or her to respond.
- ❖ Accept some speech mistakes as your child learns.
- ❖ If your child's communication skills do not meet your expectations, seek the advice of an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist. No child is too young to be evaluated, and early intervention is very important.

Hearing:

- ❖ Be aware of toys that may be loud and cause damage to your child's hearing. Toys that may be too loud include cap guns, horns, sirens, and musical instruments.
- ❖ Have your child wear earplugs around loud noises. Some other noises that can cause hearing loss are drills, lawn mowers, leaf blowers, guns, and stereo headsets.
- ❖ All babies should have their hearing screened before leaving the hospital or by 3 months of age. Babies begin developing speech and language from the moment they are born and learn by listening to sounds and voices around them. Contact an ASHA certified audiologist if your baby has not had a hearing screening. Babies can be tested immediately after birth.
- ❖ Have your child's hearing tested if your child does not respond to sounds, you have to repeat what you say, or you must talk loudly to get your child's attention.

If you suspect a speech or hearing problem, contact your child's physician or call:



The University of Georgia
College of Education - Communication Sciences and Disorders
Speech & Hearing Clinic
706.542.4598 <http://www.coe.uga.edu/csdclinic>



- Free speech & hearing screenings for ages 3 and older each fall and spring semesters
- Speech/language/hearing evaluations and treatment for infant-adult