

Sensory Connections Therapy Services

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DOES YOUR BABY NEED TO SEE A SPEECH PATHOLOGIST?

The following information has been provided to help you determine whether or not your child might need to have an assessment with a speech pathologist. It is important to note that this information is general and provided as a guide only. Each child develops at a different rate and therefore just because your child is 'not' doing something does not always mean that there is cause for concern. In general we recommend that if you have any concerns about your child's development (no matter how small) that you seek professional support and guidance.

General indicators that your baby(0-18 months) would benefit from a speech pathology assessment:

- Does not react and turn towards loud sounds.
- Reduced or no use of pleasure and displeasure sounds (laughs, cries, fusses, coos, gurgles).
- Minimal or no making noise when you might talk or play with your baby.
- Limited display of affection around familiar/favourite people or does not seem to differentiate between familiar and unfamiliar people.
- Minimal or no imitation of new sounds or actions from caregiver when engaged.
- Difficult for you to tell from sounds whether your baby is cross, happy or hungry.
- Does not shift gaze from an object to you and back (demonstrate joint attention) by 6-9 months.
- Not consistently responding to name by looking for person talking (by approximately 4 to 8 months).
- Is not using actions or gestures to communicate (e.g. reaching for an object, pulling your hand, shaking head for no, pushing things away) by 8 months.
- Not yet babbling to self, others, and objects (e.g. "ba-ba", "ma-ma") by 6-7 months.
- Not yet able to follow simple 1-step commands or requests (e.g. come here, stop that, uh uh, teddy?) by 12 months.
- Difficulty anticipating routines (e.g. going in the car when seeing the keys, going outside when shoes on, feeding-time when seeing bottle) by 12 months.
- Not using a wide range of sounds by 12 months.