

# Warning Signs

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# Warning Signs for Speech and/or Language Delay

## You Know Your Child



Every child develops at their own pace but there are skills we expect children to accomplish by a certain age like walking and talking. If you are concerned, it is always wise to seek a professional's opinion. Trust your instincts, and know that help is available.

## Birth to 12 Months

- Does not make eye contact
- Babbles very little or not at all
- Lack of response to loud noises
- Does not turn head towards familiar sounds
- Limited imitation of sounds, words, and/or facial expressions
- Does not attempt to communicate using gestures



## 12 to 18 Months

- Does not understand single words in context
- Says less than ten single words
- Does not recognize and point to objects



## 18 to 24 Months



- Difficulty following one-step directions
- Does not say "mama" or "dada"
- Only uses gestures to communicate
- Does not follow adult gestures such as pointing

## 24 to 36 Months



- Does not string two or three words together
- Speech is unintelligible to all listeners
- Does not ask or answer basic questions
- Plays alone and does not seek help

## Preschool Age (3 to 5 years)



- Difficulty understanding directions
- Only produces short phrases, not complete sentences
- Speech is unintelligible
- Leaves out function words when speaking (e.g., is, the)
- Primarily uses gestures and noises to communicate

## School Age (5 to 12 years)



- Has a hard time reading, writing, and/or spelling
- Does not maintain a topic during conversation
- Needs directions to be repeated multiple times
- Lack of receptive language
- Uses simple language to produce narratives
- Difficulty recalling information
- Difficulty creating and maintaining friendships