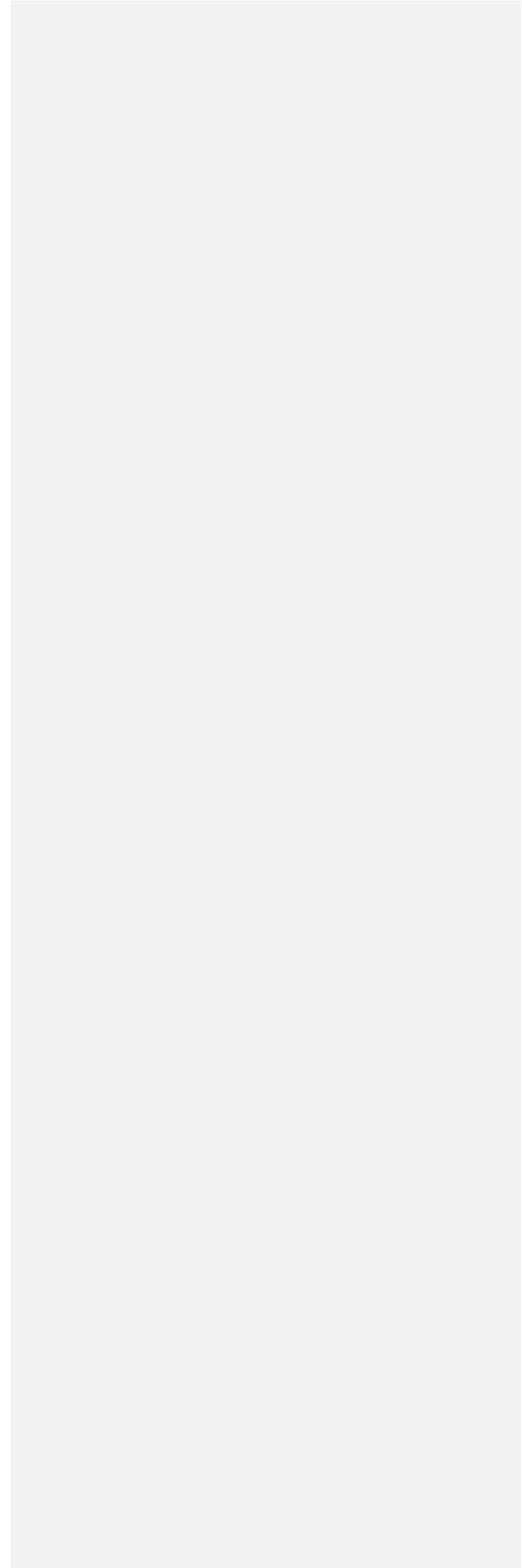


Activities to help children with Speech and Language difficulties
Birth thru 3 years

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I. Background Information

Children are born with a need to form a close and dependent attachment with their mother.

Attachment may not occur for a number of reasons including the physical state of the baby (i.e. baby is sick or premature) as well as the general constitution (emotional/mental capabilities) of the baby.

Communication delay begins when the appropriate patterns of attachment and interaction do not form.

Attachment and interaction is affected by child's overall state and the mother's caregiving skills.

Attention is focused first the building the mother-infant bond and thereafter the baby's or child's ability to understand and express its needs.

In all activities focus is first placed on *Comprehension* goals, then *Expression* goals as comprehension always precedes expression.

II. Goals and Activities by age

Birth-1 month

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Behavioral facts:

New born infants see best at 7.5 inches from their faces.

They are sensitive to brightness and color

They can follow a moving object

They visually prefer movement, sharp contours and contrasts

They are sensitive to volume, pitch and duration of sounds

Prefers the sound of human voice

Discriminates smells and tastes

Is alert less than 5 % of the day

Parent Goal: Enhance caregiver attachment and interaction

- Use least restrictive most natural environment
- Modify light and noise level in environment
- Teach the infant's varied cries and what they mean
- Do Things that increase attachment: stroking; swaddling; smiling with infants 6-7 inches from their faces.
- Use praise and verbal re-enforcers like "you're such a good baby", "you opened your eyes".
- Up to 5-7 months child in the initiator of communicative interactions; their focus in on the face. The adult's role is to prolong these interactions

Comprehension goal: To Enjoy caregiver attention; glance at caregiver

Activities: Do Things that increase attachment: stroking; swaddling; smiling with infants 6-7 inches from their faces; Coo to the baby

Expression goal: To vocalize soft throaty sounds

Activity: Do Things that increase attachment: stroking; swaddling; smiling with infants 6-7 inches from their faces; Coo to the baby

2-4 months

Behavioral Facts:

They prefer faces to objects

They remember an object that reappears within 2.5 seconds

They visually search for sounds

They begin exploratory play; explores own body

Comprehension goal: To turn head to locate source of sound

Activities: Soft singing, peekaboo, play with rattle,

Expression goal: To respond to speaker with smiling

Activities: Peekaboo, puppets, soft singing

4-6 months

Behavioral Facts:

- Can localize sounds
- They explore objects by mouthing and touching
- They begin to play
- Visually follow a vanishing object
- Capable of 3 hour visual memory
- Looks and reaches
- Reaches to grab dropped objects

Comprehension goal: respond to new sounds

Activities: use of toys that make animal sounds, play new sounds for baby, use baby mobiles

Expression goal: Vocalize sounds of pleasure and displeasure

Activities: peekaboo, Sing-alongs, puppets, Bubble play

7-9 months

Behavioral Facts:

- After 7 months child's focus is on objects
- Prefers novel and relatively complex toys
- Visually searches briefly for toy that disappeared
- Imitates a physical act, if in repertoire
- Explores shape, weight and textures of objects

Comprehension goal: To shake and bang objects

Activities: rattles, mealtime objects (cup, spoon), musical play with instruments

Expression goal: To vocalize when talked to; protest by gesturing

Activities: Peek a boo, floor play, meal time routines

9-12 months

Behavioral Facts:

Uncovers object if he observes the act of hiding first
Anticipates outcome of event
Searches for hidden objects but usually in a familiar place
Points to body parts
Imitates increasingly
Expresses people preferences

Comprehension goal: To follow simple commands; respond to “come here”

Activity: floor play

Expression goal: imitate facial expressions and movements

Activities: Sing-along (Hokey Pokey, if you’re happy and you know it), Imitative sing-alongs, humming syllable sounds to familiar tunes, Ball play, meal time routines (name and hold in items near to your face – i.e. Cup, spoon etc.)

12-18 months

Behavioral Facts:

Expresses many different emotions
Uses common objects
Practices words he knows
Follow simple motor instructions

Comprehension goal: To look at objects or people that’s pointed to

Activities: structured floor play, picture story

Expression goal: To combines sounds and take multiple_turns vocalizing

Activities: Musical sing-alongs, structured floor play with animal figures, dolls and action figures

18-24 months

Behavioral Facts:

Enjoys solitary play but engages in increased cooperative play

Pretends to feed doll

Imitates adult object use

Begins make believe play

Knows shapes

Comprehends 'one' and 'many'

Names most common everyday objects

Has vocabulary of 200-300 words

Likes rhyming games

Comprehension goal: To use objects functionally during play

Activities: play dough activity set, ball play, meal time routines, pretend play with cars, kitchen sets etc.

Expression goal: using 2 syllables and saying 1 word

Activities: Musical sing-alongs, nursery rhymes, routines

24-27 months

Behavioral Facts:

Matches primary colors

Plays with others

Vocabulary of about 500 words

Prefers action toys

Communicates feelings, desires & interests

Use short incomplete sentences

Matches familiar objects

Comprehension goal: To identify objects; follow simple commands with gestures

Activities: Action songs, picture story books, structured play with play sets

Expression goal: To demonstrate joint attention; use gestures and vocalize when requesting objects.

Activities: picture story books, bubble play, mealtime/snack routines, structured floor play, puzzles

27-36 months

Behavioral Facts:

Takes turns

Matches primary colors

Has 900-1000 word vocabulary

Follow 2 step commands

Plays and cooperates with others

Plays with words and sounds

Comprehension goal: identifies body parts; understands verbs like eat, drink etc.

Activities: Mr. Potato toy, art & craft activities, structured play with toys, animal figures & play sets

Expression goal: use words to request, comment and label

Activities: mealtime/snack routines, structured play with various common objects & play sets, puzzles