



Helping Your Child Find Their Voice

As a parent/teacher, you want to make sure your child/student is developing at a healthy pace. Speech and language development is a crucial part of their growth. Understanding key milestones can help you identify if your child/student may benefit from speech therapy.

Speech Milestones

0-6 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your child coos/goos, and makes pleasure sounds• They respond to sounds and voices• And recognize familiar voices
6-12 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your child babbles using repetitive sounds (e.g., "ba-ba," "da-da")• They understand simple words like "mama", "no" and "bye-bye"• They start pointing to indicate their wants and to use gestures, like waving
12-18 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your child says a few words (10-50 words by 18 months)• They follow simple one-step directions (e.g., "Give me the ball")• And try to imitate modeled words and sounds
18-24 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your child's vocabulary expands to 50+ words• They begin to form consistent two-word combinations (e.g., "more juice", "hi mom")• And understand basic questions and simple instructions
2-3 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your child uses short phrases/sentences (2-3 words)• They may ask simple questions (e.g., "What's that?")• And their speech is understood by familiar listeners most of the time
3-4 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your child speaks in full sentences and tells short stories• They ask more advanced questions (e.g., "why" and "how") more frequently• Their speech is mostly clear, though some sounds may still be mispronounced
4-5 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your child can hold conversations with both adults and children• They use correct grammar most of the time• And their speech is understood by unfamiliar listeners most of the time

When to Seek Speech Therapy

If your child/student is showing any of these signs, a speech-language evaluation may be beneficial:

- **Limited or No Speech:** By 18 months, your child isn't saying any words, or by 24 months, they aren't combining words.
- **Difficulty Understanding:** Your child has trouble following simple instructions.
- **Unclear Speech:** Their speech is difficult for familiar listeners to understand after age 2-3.
- **Stuttering:** Frequent repetition of sounds or difficulty getting words out, lasting more than 3-6 months.
- **Lack of Social Interaction:** Limited eye contact, difficulty with conversation, or little interest in communicating.
- **Regressive Speech Development:** Loss of previously learned words or sounds.



How Speech Therapy Can Help


Speech therapy can help children:


- Improve pronunciation and clarity
- Expand vocabulary and sentence length/structure
- Enhance social and communication skills
- Strengthen comprehension and listening skills



Next Steps

If you have concerns about your child/student's speech development, early intervention is key! Contact a certified Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP) for an evaluation.

 **Contact us at (949) 414-5526 | slp@speechave.com**

 **Visit us at Speech Avenue, 1442 Irvine Blvd. #122, Tustin, CA 92780**

 **Learn more at speechave.com**

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