

REFER TO A SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST IF THE CHILD CANNOT...

By 18 months:

- ◆ Maintain eye contact
- ◆ Respond to his/her name
- ◆ Understand basic commands like “no” and “open”
- ◆ Understand the meaning of simple words like “cup” and “toy”
- ◆ Produce a few words (even if articulation is poor)
- ◆ Imitate speech sounds



By age 2:

- ◆ Attend when spoken to
- ◆ Follow simple commands, like “put down the toy on the table”
- ◆ Use one- and two-word phrases regularly
- ◆ Use a range of consonants at the beginnings of words



By age 3:

- ◆ Maintain eye contact and engage in basic conversational discourse
- ◆ Respond to a basic yes/no question
- ◆ Follow two-step directions, like “take off your coat and go into the big room”
- ◆ Be generally understood by caregivers/family
- ◆ Use a word or phrase for most needs and wants
- ◆ Correctly produce vowels and most consonants



By age 4:

- ◆ Engage in basic conversation with eye contact
- ◆ Attend to stories and directions
- ◆ Be understood by most people
- ◆ Follow multiple step complex commands, like “after you spit, give me the cup then lie down”
- ◆ Talk about remote events, like school
- ◆ Speak smoothly without repeating syllables and words
- ◆ Answer and use simple questions
- ◆ Use mostly complete sentences



By age 5:

- ◆ Maintain a topic in conversation
- ◆ Pay attention to a story and then answer questions about it
- ◆ Appropriately follow related directions
- ◆ Be understood in all situations by most listeners
- ◆ Correctly produce most speech sounds
- ◆ Communicate easily with peers
- ◆ Name any letters or numbers

