

PROJECT CHILDFIND

Many children are born with or may acquire physical and/or mental conditions which handicap their normal growth and development. Many of these conditions can be helped and corrected IF parents recognize the problem early and seek help. DO NOT wait until your child enters school before dealing with the problem. The earlier a child with special needs gets help, the better.

HINTS TO HELP FIND CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

1 MONTH:	Moves head to side while lying on back. Regards your face when directly in front	11 MONTHS:	Cruises around playpen or crib, or walks holding on to furniture Pushes three blocks train-style
2 MONTHS:	Smiles and coos Looks in direction of sound	12 MONTHS:	Walks with one hand held Uses two meaningful words
3 MONTHS:	Follows a moving object Holds head erect	15 MONTHS:	Walks by himself Turns pages of book 2-3 at a time
4 MONTHS:	Holds a rattle Laughs aloud	18 MONTHS:	Builds tower of three blocks Combines use of words and gestures to make wants known
5 MONTHS:	Follows an object visually past mid line of body Crawls	24 MONTHS:	Walks up and down stairs holding rail Uses two-word sentences
6 MONTHS:	Sits with a little support Babbles	2 1/2 YEARS:	Has approximately 300 word speaking vocabulary Builds tower of six blocks
7 MONTHS:	Transfers an object from one hand to another Sits momentarily without support	3 YEARS:	Tells his first name Formulates and uses three-word to four-word sentences
8 MONTHS:	Sits steadily for about five minutes Imitates voice intonation patterns of others	3 1/2 YEARS:	Has vocabulary of nearly 1,000 words Feeds self entire meal with spoon or fork
9 MONTHS:	Says "ma-ma" or "da-da" Drinks from cup	4 YEARS:	Matches colors and shapes Talks in short sentences of 4-5 Words
10 MONTHS:	Pulls up at side of crib or playpen Finds object hidden under container	5 YEARS:	Understood by people outside the family Talks in sentences of 5-6 words

Speech and Language Development in Young Children

When should I be concerned about my child's speech and language development?

Both social and academic success depends on well developed speech and language skills. Your child may be having difficulty developing these skills if:

1. Your child has experienced frequent ear infections
2. Your child is not understood by playmates or others outside immediate family.
3. Your child is frustrated when trying to communicate and the situation does not improve over a one- or two-month period.

Speech is the production of sounds that make up words and sentences. Speech sounds are typically acquired in an orderly sequence through about age seven. Vowels are acquired earlier than consonants and are less likely to be misarticulated. The following table shows the typical age at which the sound should be developed. If your child has sounds that are not acquired by these ages, you may want to consult with a Speech-Language Pathologist.

Age	Sounds
3	p, m, n, w, h
4-5	k, g, d, b, f, y
6	t, ng, l
7	ch, sh, j, th
8	r, s, z, v

As new speech sounds are first acquired, their production may be inconsistent. Sounds made with the tongue tip tend to be acquired later than sounds made with the lips or with the lips and teeth.

Language refers to the use of words and sentences to convey ideas. Children understand many more words than they can say. The following are general guidelines to determine whether a child's skills are developing in a manner typical for their age. It is important to remember that children will vary.

Age	Typical Skills
1	Understands a variety of words and uses a few single words
2	Combines words into 2- and 3-word phrases and sentences
3-4	Uses 3- to 4-word sentences, carries on a conversation, asks and answers questions, follows and gives directions, 400-900 word speaking vocabulary
5-5+	Uses 5- to 6-word sentences, 1500-2500 word speaking vocabulary, the child begins to advance rapidly; uses longer and more complex sentence structure