

# **Interactive Kids**

## **Speech and Language Services**

### **Comprehensive Speech and Language Evaluation**

The speech language pathologist uses formal assessments, behavioral observations, parental report, and background information about the child to determine if a speech and/or language problem is present. During your child's evaluation, testing will occur to compare your child's skills with other children of the same age. The tests chosen are based on the concerns expressed by the parents and/or referring physician. Testing for toddlers may be play-based and interactive. Testing for preschoolers may include formal tests and play. For school-age children formal tests are administered. Tests given by the speech-language pathologist may look at the child's:

- Receptive vocabulary
- Understanding of grammar and syntax
- Understanding of directions, and information as it increases in length and complexity
- Auditory skills
- Expressive vocabulary
- Expressive use of grammar and syntax
- Word-retrieval
- Articulation
- Voice Quality
- Fluency or smooth flow of speech
- Social use of language for interactive communication
- Oral-motor and Feeding skills

A comprehensive evaluation is very important for your child. The evaluation results help determine your child's needs. A good evaluation allows the therapist to precisely target weaknesses for intervention.

Following the evaluation, interpretations and findings are discussed in detail with parents and/or guardians. Also, a written report summarizing the findings and recommendations is completed for parents, guardians, and any other professionals involved in the child's care.

## **Speech and Language Therapy**

Speech and language therapy is performed to help your child improve their skills to an age-appropriate level. Therapy is based on the information obtained from a speech and language evaluation. Goals are selected to help achieve success through a carefully designed sequence of activities. Your child learns new skills that help can change the behavior that interferes with normal communication. At times, children re-learn skills that were lost due to an accident or injury. Children learn best in a warm, supportive environment that incorporates games and rewards.

The length and amount of therapy depends on the child's age, and the nature of the problem. The severity of the communication problem is an important factor as well. Most commonly, young children are seen once or twice weekly for thirty minute sessions. As the child gets older, fewer sessions may be adequate. Consultation with the speech language pathologist is recommended to determine what will be most beneficial for the child. Certain types of speech disorders do require more intense intervention. The more serious the disorder, the longer therapy generally takes. Therapy is a process and some children make immediate improvement while others show slow, steady improvement. Every child is different so the rate and pattern of progress is completely dependent on the child.

Parental involvement in the therapy process is highly encouraged. The speech language pathologist consults with parents on an ongoing basis in regards to their child's progress. Parental training of techniques used in therapy can improve a child's overall success and allow the child to continue practice of skills learned in therapy outside the treatment sessions. Speech and language therapy is done to help your child improve their skills to an age-appropriate level. **Therapy is based on the information obtained from a speech and language evaluation. Goals are selected to help achieve success through a carefully designed sequence of activities. Your child learns new skills that help can change the behavior that interferes with normal communication. At times, children re-learn**

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The length and amount of therapy depends on the child's age, and the nature of the problem. The severity of the communication problem is an important factor as well. Most commonly, young children are seen twice weekly for thirty minute sessions. As the child gets older, one session weekly may be adequate. Consultation with the speech language pathologist is recommended to determine what will be most beneficial for the child. Certain types of speech disorders do require more intense intervention. The more serious the disorder, the longer therapy generally takes. Therapy is a process and some children make immediate improvement while others show slow, steady improvement. Every child is different so the rate and pattern of progress is completely dependent on the child.

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### Social Skills Instruction

In addition to individual speech and language therapy some children benefit from working with a peer or small group of peers on the social-pragmatic use of language. Different skills are targeted based on the level of the children involved, from basic social skills up to social thinking concepts. The children meet one time per week for an hour under the direction of a speech-language pathologist. During the last five minutes of each session, a family information period is offered to educate parents about vocabulary and strategies that are being used/taught to improve their child's pragmatic language skills. We focus on important skills such as;

- Greeting friends
- Cooperating with peers
- Listening with your whole body

- Taking turns talking (I talk-You talk)
- Staying "with the group"
- Following the "plan"
- Using eye contact
- Negotiating
- Making conversation
- Asking / answering questions
- Making comments
- Expressing their feelings/thoughts
- Reading nonverbal signals
- Identifying their feelings