

BILINGUAL LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT!

Bilingualism does not inhibit speech development.

Many studies have shown that bilingualism does not inhibit speech development. This is also true for children with developmental disabilities. Exposure to two languages has no negative impact on overall language development for children with developmental disabilities. While it may take time to learn to navigate a new avenue communication, bilingual language learners meet the same developmental milestones as their peers.

Bilingual language learners sometimes have a “silent phase.”

When bilingual children first learn a second language, they sometimes enter a “silent phase.” As they sift through the new information and learn to differentiate the two languages, they might speak slower or not speak at all for a period of time. This is normal and does not represent a developmental concern. They are not regressing in skill, just processing new information!

Bilingual language learners experience brain benefits!

Bilingual individuals have to code and organize two forms of language. This skill helps them strengthen their concentration and attention skills. Being bilingual also connects them to their cultures and heritage which reinforces their connection to their family and ancestors, strengthening their sense of self.

SPEECH THERAPY

What is Speech Therapy and how can it help my child?

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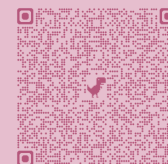
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WHAT IS SPEECH THERAPY?

WHAT IS SPEECH THERAPY?

Speech therapy is a service that works to prevent and treat communication disorders. Through this therapy, a speech therapist can work on improving the function of any system involved in language. This includes the brain, hearing systems, mouth and throat! Below is a list of areas that speech therapy commonly addresses:

ARTICULATION



COGNITION



COMMUNICATION OPTIONS



EATING



FLUENCY



HEARING



RESONANCE



SOCIAL



UNDERSTANDING & EXPRESSING



Speech therapy can do a lot of different things! To find out more about how speech therapy can meet the specific needs of your child, talk to your doctor or SLP regarding which areas may best suit your goals.

HOW SPEECH DEVELOPS:



THE BREAKDOWN:

- 1 Attention and listening:** This step requires us to pay attention what others are saying and doing. It includes looking and listening!
- 2 Play:** This step is where we start to imitate others. It includes copying others when they are dancing, gesturing and playing!
- 3 Understanding:** This step requires us to take in information. It includes understanding what is being said and following directions!
- 4 Expressing:** This step is where we begin to use spoken language! It includes imitating words and phrases with increased independence!
- 5 Pronouncing:** This step requires us to fine-tune our speaking. It includes pronunciation and clarity.

TIPS FOR DEVELOPING SPEECH AT HOME:

When your child is reaching for something, talk about what they are reaching for. For example, "Oh, you want the bubbles!"

Avoid the "Say this ___" tendency. Instead, model what they might say by labeling things yourself! This reduces pressure to speak before they are ready and keeps speech positive.

Take time to sit and read with your child every day. Label everything you see, and encourage them to point to the words and pictures as you talk about them. Books with repetitive lines are great!

