

: Speech and Language Referrals

Many referrals to Inclusive Directions are speech and language related. There can be a waiting time for Inclusive Directions support as these referrals are not always of the highest priority. Often the support requires a speech and language assessment by a Speech Pathologist who will also request a hearing assessment. There is a waiting time for tests. To shorten the length of this total waiting process, services and families can make direct referrals for both of these assessments prior to Inclusive Directions support. Using the following checklist will help you determine if the child needs assessment and support.

If these stages of typical speech development have not been reached then it may indicate that a Speech – Language assessment is needed.

<p>6 –12 months <i>Child babbles, imitates waving, clapping</i> <i>Responds to sounds</i> <i>Maintains eye contact when interacting with carers</i> <i>Shows a range of emotions</i></p>	<p>24 months <i>Easily uses two word sentences</i> <i>Attempts to join in familiar nursery rhymes</i> <i>Understands basic language used by adults</i> <i>Identifies some body parts</i> <i>Answers simple questions</i></p>
<p>12 – 18 months <i>Child babbles</i> <i>Attempts to use jargon</i> <i>Interested in others and surroundings</i> <i>Child is eating, chewing and swallowing a range of soft foods appropriately</i> <i>Recognises and names familiar items</i> <i>Responds to own name</i> <i>Copies sounds</i> <i>Imitates actions in songs</i></p>	<p>36 months <i>Easily understood by others</i> <i>Uses short sentences</i> <i>Talks about daily experiences and the 'here and now'</i> <i>Names peers</i></p>
<p>18 months <i>Uses a range of single words</i> <i>Responds to simple phrases</i> <i>Able to follow some directions</i> <i>Vocalises or points to make requests</i></p>	<p>By school age <i>Can tell a story</i> <i>Generally correct speech sounds, sentence structure and grammar</i> <i>Constantly asks questions</i> <i>Can talk about events that happened yesterday or will happen tomorrow</i></p>

Assessment Services Available

Hearing tests are available (free of charge) through:

Child and Youth Health 8303 1530

Australian Hearing Services 13 1797 to connect to your nearest centre

Speech Pathology assessment available through:

Local Community Health centres listed in the White Pages

Department of Education and Children's Services (requires filling out a form from your regional office)

Hospitals (requires referral from GPs)

Private speech pathologists: listed in the Yellow Pages

Information can be obtained from Speech Pathology Australia 8362 2454

or Private Practitioners Association on 8354 3022