

Talking Should Be Easy...Right? Basics of Early Communication Development

Motor Skills - To "talk" children need motor stability, control, coordinated movements and ability to motor plan.

Play Skills - Verbal skills cannot develop without understanding what things are and how to use them!

- Children explore toys by banging, shaking, mouthing, etc.
- Children begin learning what to do with objects (e.g., spoon to mouth, hat to head, etc.)
- Children learn cause/effect (e.g., I do this, something happens) and how to combine objects (e.g., shapes in shape sorter, stack blocks, etc.)
- Children begin pretending

Communication Intent - the desire to communicate with others and being intentional about it! They may try to do things themselves, but most of the time young children seek the attention and assistance of familiar adults.

3 components needed for words to develop-

➤ **Joint Attention**

Using eye gaze to share activities with others, notice others, respond when spoken to, and for communication

➤ **Using Gestures (typically paired with eye gaze)**

Proximity (standing near what is wanted)

General body movement (rocking body, waving arms, kicking legs, etc.)

Leading someone to what they want

Making choices (objects, and later with pictures)

Reaching/Touching/Taking

Handing an object to represent the "word"

Using general gestures - ex: "give me/want", "bye bye," push away object for "done"

Pointing (things close and out of reach) to indicate "look" or to request

Handing a picture to represent the "word"

Using "Representational Gestures" - ex: song gestures, blowing, eat, etc.

Using specific sign language

➤ **Vocalizations (typically paired with eye gaze and/or gesture)**

Crying, vowels (cooing), add consonants (babbling), and then jargon

AND THEN, COMBINE ALL COMPONENTS TOGETHER



WORDS & SUCCESSFUL CONVERSATIONS