

# SPEECH THERAPY Screening Tool

## “Red Flags”



We understand that it is challenging to see your child struggle whether at school, at home or in the community. The following “red flags” may help identify if speech therapy could benefit your child.

### Children – All Ages

- Limited interest in toys and/or plays with them in an unusual way
- Has lost words he/she used to say
- Stuttering
- Ongoing hoarse voice
- Problems with chewing or swallowing



### Feeding “Red Flags”

#### By 6 Months

- Choking coughing, avoiding feedings
- Difficulty breathing during feeding
- Excessive amount of time to nurse (greater than 20 minutes)
- Excessive amount of time to bottle feed (greater than 20 minutes)
- Frequent and unusually small feedings
- Refusing bottle, refusing nursing
- Mother experiences pain when nursing



#### 6 months to 1 year

- Choking, coughing on purees or solids
- Refusing spoon or purees
- Refusing solid foods or unable to transition to solid foods
- Gagging repeatedly on purees or solid foods
- Unable to transition to sippy cup, open cup, or straw cup
- Swallowing food whole without chewing
- Pushing food out of mouth
- Eating a limited amount of food at meals or throughout the day
- Drinking more than eating

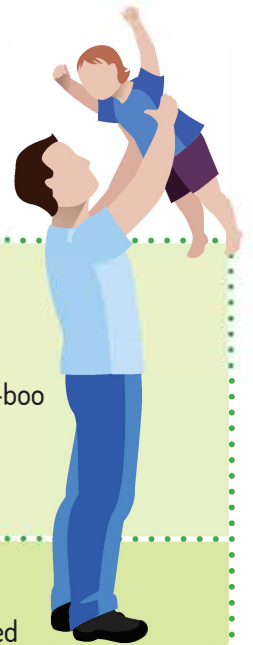
#### 1 year and older

- Puts fingers in mouth to move food around
- Stores food in cheek or roof of mouth
- Sucks on food or swallows whole rather than chewing
- Takes a long time to eat a meal or snack (greater than 30 minutes)
- Eats too quickly
- Difficulty transitioning from bottle to age appropriate cup
- Coughing/gagging/choking on solid foods



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## “Red Flags” – Age Specific



### By 6 Months

- Turns eyes or head toward a sound
- Watches your face when you speak
- Smiles and laughs in response to your smiles and laughs
- Has different cries for different needs
- Makes sounds and/or moves body in response to you

### By 9 Months

- Responds to his/her name
- Babbles e.g., bababa, dadada
- Plays social games w/ you e.g., peek-a-boo

### By 12 Months

- Follows simple 1-step directions e.g., “sit down”
- Gives familiar items on verbal request
- Points to things he/she wants
- Uses gestures e.g. waving “bye-bye”
- Brings toys to show you
- Looks across the room to something you point to
- Gets your attention using sounds, and gestures while looking at your eyes

### By 18 Months

- Identifies several body parts when asked
- Understands concepts of “in/out”, “off/on”
- Points to pictures using one finger
- Says about 20 words consistently
- Uses at least four consonant sounds e.g., p, b, m, n, d, g, w, h
- Pretends to feed a doll/teddy or pretends a bowl is a hat

### By 2 Years

- Follows 2-step directions e.g., “go find your teddy and show it to grandma”
- Uses at least 100 words including action words e.g., fall, eat, go
- Combines at least two words e.g., daddy sleep
- Enjoys being with other children
- Puts two pretend play actions together e.g., stirring food and feeding a doll



### By 3 Years

- Understands who, what, where and why questions
- Can create long sentences combining at least five words
- Uses some adult grammar e.g., cookies, mommy’s coat, I jumped
- Can have a short conversation
- Speech is understood at least 75% of time
- Pretends with friends using many actions e.g. having a tea party

### By 4 Years

- Follows three-part directions e.g. “get some paper, draw a picture and give it to mommy”
- Uses sentences with adult-type grammar e.g., “he’s going to the park now”
- Tells a story
- Speech is understood by strangers most of the time
- Can act out different roles with their friends e.g., going to a restaurant

