

## What Do I Do If I Am Concerned About My Child's Speech/Language Development?



If they are late, don't wait to seek a professional evaluation by a licensed and certified speech/language pathologist!

Dower and Associates, Inc. has been evaluating and treating communication delays in children and adolescents in Prince William and Loudoun Counties since 1993. Director, Nikia Dower, MS, CCC-SLP/L, BCBA®, is a licensed speech/language pathologist (1986) and certified speech/language pathologist (1988) and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst® since 2005.

Dower and Associates, Inc. staff members provide speech/language evaluations and therapy, applied behavior analysis consultations and instruction, academic and remedial tutoring, as well as educational consultations and advocacy.

Contact us for more information on the services we provide!



[www.dowerandassociates.com](http://www.dowerandassociates.com)

\*Speech & Language Evaluations, Therapy & Consultations \* Applied Behavior Analysis Consulting & Instruction \* Academic & Remedial Tutoring \*  
\*IEP Development & Advocacy\*

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## Speech-Language Milestones & Signs of Referral for Early Intervention

9-18 months



*Specialties in Language Based Learning*

*Disabilities, Autism, Apraxia & Other*

*Developmental*

*Disabilities*

Speech & Language Evaluations, Therapy & Consultations

Applied Behavior Analysis Consulting & Instruction

Academic & Remedial Tutoring

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*Established 1993*

## Typical Developmental Milestones

### 9 TO 12 MONTHS

- Attracts attention (vocalizing, coughing)
- Shakes head “no”, pushes undesired objects away
- Waves “bye”
- Indicates requests clearly, directs others’ behavior (shows objects, gives objects to adults, pats, pulls)
- Coordinates actions between objects and adults (looks back and forth between adult and object of desire)
- Imitates new sounds/actions
- Shows consistent patterns of reduplicative babbling, produces vocalizations that sound like first words (ma-ma, da-da)
- Looks at pictures in a book for short periods of time when named by an adult
- Responds to no
- Imitates names of familiar objects
- Uses one word to convey entire thought
- Object permanence intact
- Low vowels and front-back vowel emerge

### 12 TO 18 MONTHS

- Single-word productions begin
- Requests objects, points, vocalizes, may use word approximations
- Gets attention: vocally, physically, maybe by using word (“mommy”)
- Understands “agency”: knows that an adult can do things for him/her (such as activate a wind up toy)
- Uses ritual words (“bye,” “hi,” thank you,” “please”)
- Protests: says “no,” shakes head, moves away, pushes objects away
- Comments: points to object, vocalizes or uses word approximation
- Acknowledges: eye contact, vocal response, repetition of word
- Responds to songs and rhymes by vocalizing
- Understands approximately 50 words and says approximately 10-15 words with 7-10 true words
- Initiates turn-taking routines
- Consonants b d g m n (initial position of words)

## Description of Our Services

- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Consulting and Instruction (in home and/or school) *with Emphasis in Verbal Behavior*
- Speech & Language Therapy, Evaluations and Consultations
- Academic and Remedial Tutoring
- SRA/Direct Instruction Programs
- Social/Pragmatic Skills Groups
- Limited Educational Assessments
- ABLLS™-R and VB-MAPP Assessments
- Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) for Behavior Replacement; Behavior Reduction Programming & Treatment
- Specialized Respite Care
- Parent and Staff Training
- Speech/Language Pathology Certificate of Clinical Competence and BCBA®/BCABA® Supervision
- Skill Development ~ Communication, Daily Living, Feeding Issues, Toileting, Vocational, Social Skills
- ABA Program Evaluation and Development
- Workshops (parents, schools & community)
- “Camp Communicate with Confidence”
- IEP Development & Advocacy
- Shadowing in School and/or Camp
- Contractual Services to Public and Private Schools
- DDW (Virginia) & TRICARE-ECHO Service Provider

Call or email us for more information and fee schedule.

**703-618-6180**

**information@dowerandassociates.com**

## Signs For Referral For Early Intervention

### AT 12 MONTHS

- Is easily upset by sounds that would not be upsetting to others
- Does not clearly indicate request for object while focusing on object
- Does not coordinate action between objects and adults
- Lack of consistent patterns of reduplicative babbling
- Lack of responses indicating comprehension of words or communicative gestures
- Exclusive reliance on context for language understanding
- Does not try to imitate speech sounds
- Does not associate action with result
- Absence of consonants and CV or VC syllable combinations

### AT 18 MONTHS

- Lack of communicative gestures
- Does not attempt to imitate or spontaneously produce single words to convey meaning
- Does not persist in communication (e.g. hands object to adult for help, but then gives up if adult does not respond immediately)
- Limited comprehension vocabulary (understands <50 words or phrases without gesture or context clues)
- Limited production/expressive vocabulary (speaks <10 words)
- Lack of growth in production vocabulary over 6 month period (from 12 to 18 months)
- Produces/uses no recognizable consonants