Communication from 2 to 5 Years of Age

You encourage communication with your child when you…

2 to 2½ Years
✓ Comment on how you think your child feels and encourage your child to express his or her feelings, such as "I'm mad!"
✓ Teach your child matching games involving objects, pictures and colours.
✓ Read books to your child as part of a daily routine, such as at nap time.
✓ Use descriptive words such as big, little, empty, soft, wet, and dirty.

2½ to 3 Years
✓ Talk about similarities and differences among objects.
✓ Help your child group objects together, such as things to ride in, wear, etc…
✓ Let your child play with other children of the same age.
✓ Encourage your child to tell stories using books and pictures.
✓ Play word games using silly rhymes.

3 to 4 Years
✓ Ask questions that require more than a yes or no answer, such as "What is he playing?"
✓ Give your child opportunities to cut, colour, paste, and draw pictures.
✓ Talk about the kinds of things we eat, wear, etc…, so your child can group things.
✓ Practice songs and rhymes.
✓ Encourage your child to look at letters and words.

4 to 5 Years
✓ Encourage your child to talk about his or her ideas, wishes, fears, and to ask questions about them.
✓ Ask your child to solve problems, such as if your child shows you a broken toy, you ask "what should we do?" Expect an answer such as "glue it."
✓ Read books with short chapters to your child, such as Series: "Toad for Tuesday" (Erickson), The Big Big Big Book of Tashi (Fienberg) And The Three Tales of My Father's Dragon (Stiles Gannett).
✓ Help your child plan and do an activity with you such as making cookies.

Speech and Language Clinic Locations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Fax</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbotsford</td>
<td>104 - 34194 Marshall Road</td>
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<td>Burnaby</td>
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<td>Fax: 604-702-4971</td>
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<td>303 - 11245 84th Avenue</td>
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<td>604-476-7070</td>
<td>604-476-7077</td>
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<td>Mission</td>
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<td>604-814-5500</td>
<td>Fax: 604-814-5517</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Westminster</td>
<td>105 - 80A Sixth Street</td>
<td>604-777-8555 Ext. 526616</td>
<td>Fax: 604-525-3803</td>
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<td>North Surrey</td>
<td>220 - 10362 King George Boulevard</td>
<td>604-587-7903</td>
<td>Fax: 604-582-4811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-Cities (Port Moody)</td>
<td>200 - 205 Newport Drive</td>
<td>604-949-7213</td>
<td>Fax: 604-949-7211</td>
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Communication from Birth to 2 Years of Age

Your child should …

By age…

Birth to 6 Months
- smile and coo, such as ooh, aah
- have different cries for different feelings
- respond to caregivers’ voices, different sounds, and familiar objects
- look at people with interest
- babble using sounds, such as puh, buh, muh

6 to 10 Months
- combine consonants and vowels, such as nana, dada, baba, adudu
- use “speech-like” babble
- respond to no and his or her name
- point and gesture (by 9 months of age)

10 to 18 Months
- follow simple commands, such as “Give me the cup.”
- point to a few body parts, objects and pictures
- say his or her first ‘real’ words, such as ball, hi, bye, mama, dada
- use speech that is difficult to understand
- play social games, such as patty cake or peekaboo
- show interest in others’ activities

18 to 24 Months
- imitate animal sounds, such as “meow”, “moo”
- use 20 – 50 words, such as eat, dirty, mine, and child’s own name
- pronounce many words incorrectly

You encourage communication with your child when you …

First
✓ Use a warm, natural, playful tone of voice when you talk to your baby.
✓ Sing lullabies in a gentle voice, while you rock, cuddle your baby, and look at each other.
✓ Talk to and look at your baby while you cuddle and take care of him or her.
✓ Respond to your baby’s attempts at communication, such as Shouts for attention, pointing to objects, babbling.
✓ Babble back to your baby when he or she babbles.
✓ Take turns copying each other’s babbling.

Then
✓ Use simple, clear speech.
✓ Talk about daily routines using simple words or short sentence while you do them.
✓ Listen to your baby’s attempts to use words, then say the words back correctly.
✓ Name actions and objects that your child shows interest in.
✓ Repeat what your child says and add one or two words to it, such as If your child says “juice”, you say “here’s more juice.”
✓ Look at simple picture books with your child.

Communication from 2 to 5 Years of Age

When listening, your child should …

2 to 2 ½ Years
- understand words such as in, on, one, all, big, little, morning and night
- follow directions, such as “Get the book and sit down.”
- listen to a 5 to 10 minute story

2 ½ to 3 Years
- understand words such as go, stop, under, up, down, empty and full
- listen to a 20 minute story
- point to pictures or objects when asked, such as “What do you ride?”

3 to 4 Years
- understand words such as in front of, behind, hard, rough, heavier, and not
- identify 6 body parts and 4 colours
- group objects together, such as animals
- follow directions such as, “Go downstairs and get your book.”
- make conclusions, such as If you come in from outside with wet shoes, your child knows it’s raining outside.

4 to 5 Years
- understand words such as faster, thin, pointed, above, bottom, short, and different
- understand most of what others say
- understand directions such as, “Point to the small black bear.”
- remember stories and TV commercials
- identify what is missing when shown 3 objects and then shown the same group with one item taken out

When talking, your child should …

2 to 2 ½ Years
- put words together, such as “More juice”, “No eat”, “Daddy go car.”
- use words such as in, on, me, and you
- answer simple questions, such as “What’s this? ” “Where’s your teddy?”
- name objects in pictures
- use the sounds m, p, n, h, and w correctly

2 ½ to 3 Years
- use 3 or more words in each sentence, such as “Push my truck,” “What daddy doing?”
- use words such as walking, red, mom’s, dogs, l, and mine
- ask what and where questions
- answer simple questions needing yes or no for an answer and questions such as, “What do you do when you are sleepy?”
- be understood by most listeners

3 to 4 Years
- use words such as don’t, walked, is, and, he, she
- tell you how objects are used
- answer simple why and what if questions, such as “What would you do if you fell down?”
- re-tell familiar stories, such as The Three Pigs.
- use the sounds k, g and l correctly
- complete opposites, such as a bike is little, a car is … (big)