



Shoreline Speech Therapy

EARLY SPEECH DEVELOPMENT



PHONATION STAGE birth – 1 month

- reflexive vocalization (e.g., crying, sneezing)

COOING AND GOOING STAGE 2 – 3 months

- make speech-like sounds ('oo, aw, oh, k, g, ng') made in the back of the mouth
- uses these sounds in simple combinations (e.g., "goo")

EXPANSION/EXPLORATION STAGE 4 – 6 months

- playful vocalizations – learn greater control over their speech and voice mechanism
- early babbling – strings of simple syllables
- imitation of sounds
- variations in pitch and loudness

BABBLING/INTEGRATIVE STAGE 6 – 18 months

- say words that fit the sounds they can make in babbling (e.g., "bawbaw" for 'bottle')
- learn new sounds with simple motor movements

Canonical Babbling Stage 7 – 9 months

- increased imitation of speech sounds
- make words with repeated syllables ('dada')
- develop more speech sounds in the front of the mouth (e.g., 'ih' as in 'bib', 'p, b, t, d')

Variegated Babbling Stage 10 – 12 months

- say first words (other than 'mama, dada')
- make words with different syllable combinations (e.g., 'doggy', 'cookie')
- use adult-like intonation (e.g., raise pitch as if asking a question)
- continue to develop more consonants and vowels

EARLY SPEECH DEVELOPMENT 2 – 5 years

- differentiation – learn to use parts of the mouth separately – make more complex speech movements (e.g., tongue blade used separately from margins)
- early sounds develop and are mastered: 'p, b, m, n, h, d, t, w, k, g, y, f'
- intelligibility grows: 25% by 19 months, 50% by 2 years, 75% by 3 years, 90-100% by 5 years
- make expected errors (e.g., "fum" for 'thumb') at different ages

WHEN TO SEE AN SLP

- not meeting milestones
- absence of babbling
- atypical errors (e.g., expect 'tea' for "key" up to age 3 ½ years, but do not expect 'key' for "tea" at any age)
- intelligibility lower than expected for their age
- 'oral groping' – trial and error movements of mouth
- frequent 'pop out' words – say words one time and then never again (e.g., says 'cookie' once and never again)
- 'go to' word – uses a single sound for syllable for everything (e.g., "di" for all things)