

# RED FLAGS IN COMMUNICATION

## Reasons to refer to a Speech and Language Pathologist

### Under 1

- Limited or no babbling
- Not responding to names or sounds
- Does not indicate when happy / upset
- Does not point to objects or gesture (wave 'bye bye' or shake head for 'no')

### 18 Months

- No words or less than 8 words used consistently
- Few different speech sounds
- No ununderstanding routines e.g. 'bath time' or 'bye bye'
- Not understanding names of familiar objects e.g. shoes, teddy

### 2 years

- Vocabulary or less than 50 words
- Not putting 2 words together e.g. more juice
- Not following simple instructions
- Little interest in social interaction

### 3 years

- Not regularly putting 3+ words together
- Not putting together a variety of different sentences
- Not understanding questions like "Who...?" and "Where...?"
- Strangers have difficulty understanding what the child is saying

### 4 years

- Not asking questions
- Not able to talk about previous events and say what they have been doing
- Speech is still difficult to understand at times

### 5 years

- Not able to listen to a short story and ask questions about it
- Not able to repeat long sentences correctly

### Under 1

- Difficulty acquiring literacy skills
- Difficulty with attention and memorization of facts
- Continuing to have grammatical errors in sentences
- Not able to tell a story

### At any age, please refer a child to a Speech and Language Therapist if:

- **Child is having difficulty chewing and/or swallowing**
- **Child has been stuttering for more than 6 months**

**Please noted: children with more than one language at home do NOT develop language more slowly and may present with any of the above communication difficulties.**

