

# Speech and Language Therapy

## An Insight Into Early Intervention

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The act of sharing,  
exchanging ideas, thoughts  
and feelings

During the first 3 months  
babies begin to use their  
voice and body to  
communicate

Crying will be the  
newborn's main way to  
communicate,

Babies slowly discover their  
ability to make sounds:  
Soon you'll have a cooing  
and gurgling machine! Your  
baby will "talk" to you with a  
variety of sounds- babbling

Communication

Language is learned because



Children want to communicate



The single most important influence on the rate of progress is the quality and quantity of communication that the child experiences throughout their day at home or at school



Learning to talk is an everyday activity



# Early interaction with your child

- ▶ **Interact and engage with your baby-**

Your baby loves the sound of your voice.

Talk, read, sing, and coo away during these first few months

Respond enthusiastically to your baby's sounds

Name familiar objects as you feed/ change/ play with your baby

- ▶ **Have conversations with your baby-**

Don't interrupt or look away when your baby is "talking".

Your baby will start to enjoy two-way "conversations" — exchanging smiles and

sounds

- ▶ **Notice when your baby needs quiet time-**

They may need to take a break from all the stimulation

# When do you begin intervention?

Shortly after  
birth for feeding

As early as 6  
months for  
communication



# Development in children with Down Syndrome



Children with Down syndrome usually have an uneven profile of social, cognitive and language development



Delay is not equal in all areas

Imitation

Language  
Comprehension  
and Cognitive  
skills

Social-  
pragmatic Skills

Visual Memory

Compliance

Response to  
reinforcement



Understanding  
the child-  
Strengths

Associated  
Sensory deficit

Taking to  
nonverbal  
communication

Muscle Tone  
Issues

Slow  
vocabulary  
acquisition



Understanding  
your child-  
Challenges





## Prognostic variables- The big W?

- Sensory abilities
- Pre linguistic skills
- Comprehension
- Muscle tone
- Language learning situations
- Specific difficulties
- Variability in children

# Determinants of SUCCESS

- Every achievement is a milestone to celebrate
- Give your child the time to bloom and do not succumb to pressure
- Presence of parent in the sessions- Parents are the best therapists
- Regularity, redundancy and consistency





# THERAPY AND REHABILITATION



# Components of Speech Therapy



PRELINGUISTIC  
SKILLS



COMPREHENSION



EXPRESSION



OROMOTOR  
STIMULATION



## Prelinguistic Skills

These skills are the basepoint for developing any skill.

Some children develop these skills faster than others

Developing these abilities forms the foundation of a child's speech and language



# Prelinguistic

- Pointing
- Joint Attention
- Matching
- Eye contact
- Eye and hand coordination
- Sitting tolerance
- Imitation







Language  
Skills

Comprehension

Expression

Audiotory perception

Articulation

Fluency



# Oromotor Stimulation

- Specialized exercises to improve strength, movement and coordination of oral structures such as tongue, lips, cheeks and jaw





# Lip Strengthening

## Closure and Seal

- Helps with drooling, chewing and swallowing



# Defining roles- SLP vs Parent

SLP	PARENT
Set realistic goals – long term and short term	Involvement and Engagement
Design effective and doable home therapy programs	Follow your therapist
Plan activities for each goal	Redundancy, Consistency and Practice
Suggest reinforcement strategies	Regularity
Highlight the nuances during the therapy session	Provide feedback
Support strategies for schooling	Document Progress

# Vision

Early intervention paves the way to **inclusive education**

Making the self advocates – **happy, independent and confident**

**Improve quality of life**

