Speech Therapy Screening Tool (‘Red Flags’)

Children - All Ages

☐ Limited interest in toys and/or plays with them in an unusual way

☐ Has lost words he/she used to say

☐ Stuttering

☐ Ongoing hoarse voice

☐ Problems with chewing or swallowing
Speech Therapy Screening Tool ("Red Flags") – Age Specific

By 6 Months
  o Turns eyes or head toward a sound
  o Watches your face when you speak
  o Smiles and laughs in response to your smiles and laughs
  o Has different cries for different needs
  o Makes sounds and/or moves body in response to you

By 9 Months
  o Responds to his/her name
  o Babbles e.g., bababa, dadada
  o Plays social games w/ you e.g., peek-a-boo

By 12 Months
  o Follows simple 1-step directions e.g., “sit down”
  o Gives familiar items on verbal request
  o Points to things he/she wants
  o Uses gestures e.g. waving “bye-bye”
  o Brings toys to show you
  o Looks across the room to something you point to
  o Gets your attention using sounds, and gestures while looking at your eyes

By 18 Months
  o Identifies several body parts when asked
  o Understands concepts of “in/out”, “off/on”
  o Points to pictures using one finger
  o Says about 20 words consistently
  o Uses at least four consonant sounds e.g., p, b, m, n, d, g, w, h
  o Pretends to feed a doll/teddy or pretends a bowl is a hat

By 2 Years
  o Follows 2-step directions e.g., “go find your teddy and show it to grandma”
  o Uses at least 100 words including action words e.g., fall, eat, go
  o Combines at least two words e.g., daddy sleep
  o Enjoys being with other children
  o Puts two pretend play actions together e.g., stirring food and feeding a doll

By 3 Years
  o Understands who, what, where and why questions
  o Can create long sentences combining at least five words
  o Uses some adult grammar e.g., cookies, mommy’s coat, I jumped
  o Can have a short conversation
  o Speech is understood at least 75% of time
  o Pretends with friends using many actions e.g. having a tea party

By 4 Years
  o Follows three-part directions e.g. “get some paper, draw a picture and give it to mommy”
  o Uses sentences with adult-type grammar e.g., “he’s going to the park now”
  o Tells a story
  o Speech is understood by strangers most of the time
  o Can act out different roles with their friends e.g., going to a restaurant