

SPEECH-LANGUAGE INTERVENTION FOR THE YOUNG CHILD

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

"My 2 ½ child was only saying 4 words so I took him to a speech-language pathologist. I thought we would have classes every week. We only saw the SLP about once a month. At the sessions we went to, the speech pathologist spent all her time teaching me, not my child! She taught me different ways to talk to my son and to respond to my son. It was really different than I thought it was going to be, but it worked!" ...conversation with a parent

GETTING HELP LEARNING TO TALK

- Children learn language by first hearing, or being exposed to, language.
- After being exposed to a word many times (i.e. 10 times or maybe 100 times or perhaps 1,000 times) eventually a child will copy the word and then use the word!
- A child hears language and therefore learns language most from their primary caregiver. **Speech-language intervention for the young child mainly involves teaching the caregiver.**
- There are several language facilitation strategies a parent or caregiver can learn that have been proven to help children learn to talk. [See resource: Strategies at a Glance]
- Usually the speech-language pathologist (SLP) will teach and demonstrate one or two language facilitation strategies to a parent during an initial appointment.
- The SLP tries to give very practical suggestions to caregivers about how and when to implement these interactional techniques.
- After the caregiver has had time to practice the strategies a follow-up appointment with the SLP can be very helpful.

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