



Communication development starts in the first year of life and goes far beyond learning how to talk.

Communication development has its roots in social interaction with parents and other caregivers during everyday activities.

Your child's growth in social communication is important because it helps your child connect with you, learn language and play concepts, and sets the stage for learning to read and future success in school.

Good communication skills are the best tool to prevent behavior problems and make it easier to handle moments of frustration that all infants and toddlers face.



Screen My Child

If your child is between 9 and 18 months, we invite you to participate in our research and have your child screened with the Smart ESAC.

Find out how at

FirstWordsProject.com

While you are there

CHECK OUT OUR GROWTH CHARTS



FIRST WORDS® Project has received grants from the following agencies:

- NIH, National Institute of Mental Health
- NIH, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- NIH, Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
- U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences
- U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- State of Florida Legislature

The content of our tools and resources is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of these agencies.



What does it take to learn to talk?

It takes gestures, sounds, play... and much more.

Did you know that the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends screening all children between the ages of 9 and 24 months for communication delays?



FirstWordsProject.com

One of the most exciting things about being a parent is watching your child grow and reach new milestones.

How can a parent know what to expect?

Visit FirstWordsProject.com



16 x 16 Series

Did you know that ... all children should have 16 gestures by 16 months?

- **Learn** the critical social communication skills to launch language learning, literacy, and much more by 24 months using our 16X16 series
- **Catch** small delays early to prevent bigger delays later



Social Communication Growth Charts

Learn the milestones to launch language early.

- **Explore** hundreds of video clips to learn key social communication milestones from 9 to 24 months and how you can support your child's development
- **Chart** your child's development from 9 to 24 months and celebrate these early critical steps as you watch your child grow



Resources

Documents and websites to download, print, and share.

- **Support** your child's development by reviewing documents on milestones
- **Link** to other websites with information for parents of infants and toddlers

How can you screen for a communication delay in a child who can't talk yet?

Infants and toddlers can be screened for skills that develop before children learn to talk, such as gestures, sounds, and actions with objects used in play.

The **Smart Early Screening for Autism and Communication Disorders (Smart ESAC)** helps identify the earliest signs of communication delay or red flags for autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

- ✓ Screening is done online
- ✓ Results are available to your provider immediately
- ✓ You will have access to your results and much more on the FIRST WORDS Project Parent Portal



FirstWordsProject.com

Join our parent portal and become part of an online network of support

For all families screened with the Smart ESAC...

- Get your screening reports and invitations to rescreen every 3 to 6 months
- Monthly check-in to monitor next steps for your child
- Free access to the Social Communication Growth Charts
- Invite other service providers to view the portal to support team collaboration and communication

If your child's screening result shows a risk for autism, you will be invited to Autism Navigator courses and tools.



Learn more at AutismNavigator.com

