

RED FLAGS FOR COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES

THE FOLLOWING FEATURES ARE INDICATIVE OF ATYPICAL DEVELOPMENT IN SPEECH, LANGUAGE OR COMMUNICATION:

1-2 YEARS

No babbling, no single words;
Not responding to speech and/or sounds;
Minimal or no attempts to communicate.



At most, two-word utterances;
Child does not understand simple commands;
Close relatives understand little of child's speech.

2-3 YEARS

THE FOLLOWING FEATURES ARE INDICATIVE OF ATYPICAL DEVELOPMENT IN LANGUAGE:

4-5 YEARS

At most, three-word utterances;
Lacking simple sentences (e.g. *He likes to walk*);
Difficulty being understood by strangers;
Parents understand 50-75% of utterances;
Difficulty understanding and processing spoken language.



At most, simple sentences;
Poor intelligibility (difficult to understand speech);
Reduced reaction to questions or commands;
Rarely asks questions.

5-6 YEARS

6-7 YEARS

Incomplete sentences, no use of compound sentences;
Poor story-telling and/or vocabulary;
Poor intelligibility;
Cluster reduction (e.g. says 'top' for 'stop');
Poor understanding of language and/or commands.



REFER FOR SPEECH PATHOLOGY ASSESSMENT IF THE CHILD PRESENTS WITH ANY OF THESE RED FLAGS

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Bishop et al., 2016; SPA, 2017

