

During your visit at Kenner, your pediatric health providers will do periodic developmental screenings developmental tools during routine visits as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics at 9-, 18-, 24-, and 30-months.

However, if you feel your child has speech and language delay and especially if your child has established risk factors (example: prematurity, ongoing neurologic or genetic conditions), they may require a separate, sooner appointment for developmental screening and in more frequent intervals than children without risk factors.



Track your child's development and share your observation with your Care Provider sooner; because early identification and intervention for developmental delay are critical for your child's well-being.



Kenner Army Health Clinic



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To download this handout, please scan with a mobile device, it will direct you to <https://kenner.tricare.mil/Health-Services/Childrens-Health>

KAHC website: <http://kenner.tricare.mil>



IT'S TIME TO TALK

Are you concerned about your child's speech and language?



**Kenner Army Health Clinic
Patient Handout**

IS YOUR CHILD COMMUNICATING?

Babies are born to communicate. Their first cry announces their arrival long before they speak a word. Repeated cries can be cues for hunger or discomfort, while smiles and coos speak happiness or love.

This brochure shares resources to help you track your child's communication milestones from infancy through toddler years and what to do when there are concerns about speech and language delay.

Remember, children develop at different rates, but there are expectations of acquiring skills by a certain age.

Follow the CDC's link to track your child's development. Learn the Signs.Act.Early. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

Aprenda los signos.Reaccione pronto.
Encuentre mas informacion en
www.cdc.gov/sigamos

American Speech-language-Hearing Association

<https://www.asha.org/public/speech>
<https://identifythesigns.org>

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR CHILD IS IDENTIFIED TO BE DELAYED?

Depending on your child's history and check-up, your health provider might refer your child to an audiologist for a hearing test. Then to a Speech-Language professional who will conduct specialized evaluation and services specifically for your child's needs.

Generally, [Speech and Language Therapy](#) is a covered benefit through HUMANA beginning at 18 months and older. Younger children may receive services on a case-by-case basis.



WHAT PROGRAMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY FOR YOUR CHILD'S CONDITION?

For younger than 3 years old, you can contact a federal- and state-funded Early Intervention Program. Follow the link to find an early intervention program in your area.

www.itcva.online

For 3 years old and older, contact your local public school if your child qualifies for school-based services.

WHAT TO DO WHILE WAITING FOR YOUR CHILD'S APPOINTMENT?

READ TOGETHER. "Shared reading" between caregivers and children 5-7 times a week can improve speech, school readiness, and school success!

PLAY! Actively talk and play with your child and grab opportunities to interact with other children during these COVID pandemic times safely.

BE PRESENT. By being responsive to your child's emotional and physical cues, your child will be secure to explore, learn and more likely develop strong language abilities.

"Parents of young children: put down your phones. Too much tech and too little talk can delay communication development."

- HealthyChildren.org

OTHER RESOURCES:

Download cdc.gov/MilestoneTracker for activities to help your child thrive.

American Academy of Pediatrics
www.healthychildren.org

Brightfutures.aap.org/families/pages/resources-for-families.aspx

American speech-language-Hearing Association How does your child hear and talk? <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/suggestions>