Language

- **Language** is a set of shared rules that allows people to convey their ideas in a meaningful way.

- Language may be expressed in a variety of forms:
  - Braille
  - Writing
  - Eye Blinking
  - Signing
  - Verbal Speech
  - Mouth Movements
Speech

- **Speech** is the production of recognizable sounds that make up language through precise movements of the mouth and face.

- Speech is one of many ways to express language.
Speech and Language Disorders

• A child with a **language disorder** may have difficulty with the meaning of a message or idea.

• There are two types of language disorders:
  o **Receptive language disorder:** difficulty understanding the meaning of what is being said.
  o **Expressive language disorder:** difficulty communicating his or her own thoughts.

• A child with a **speech disorder** may have difficulty producing certain sounds.
Developmental Milestones

• Typically developing children achieve certain communication milestones at roughly the same age

• Comparing your child's communication development to universal milestones can help to identify possible delays or disorders in speech and hearing

It is important to remember that every child develops at his or her own pace. Tracking speech and language milestones can help ensure your child is developing appropriately.
Birth to 3 Months
• Reacts to loud noises
• Recognizes voices
• Calms when spoken to

4 to 6 Months
• Laughs and gurgles
• Looks to locate sounds
• Reacts to music

7 Months to 1 Year
• Babbles to communicate
• Pays attention when spoken to
• Says first words

Typical Communication Milestones

Adapted from:
Typical Communication Milestones

1 to 2 Years
- Uses 1 to 2 word phrases
- Understands simple instructions
- Enjoys stories and rhymes

2 to 3 Years
- Identifies people and objects by name
- Uses 2 to 3 word phrases
- Speaks and is understood by family and friends

3 to 5 Years
- Communicates easily
- Uses increasingly complex sentences
- Develops understanding of letters and numbers

Adapted from: National Institutes of Health (2015). Your Baby’s Hearing and Communicative Development Checklist
Parent-Child Communication

Increase communication with your child by:

- Listening and responding to what he or she says
- Providing facial cues
- Asking questions
- Naming people, places, and things in your surroundings

Increase your child's speech production by:

- Making up silly sentences and rhymes
- Singing together
- Practicing letters and numbers
- Imagining and playing together

It is important to engage children of all ages in speech and language activities— even the youngest of children!
Enhancing Language Learning

• **Literacy** is the ability to read and write
  - Children begin developing the foundations for literacy at birth
  - Reading with your child helps to promote literacy

• Improve language learning while reading with your child by:
  - Introducing new words
  - Pausing to look at and describe the pictures
  - Making predictions about the story
Hearing Loss

A child with hearing loss may have difficulties with speech and language.

- Undiagnosed hearing loss may cause speech and language delays
- A child who cannot hear certain speech sounds may have trouble clearly producing them
- A child with hearing loss may have difficulty monitoring the volume of his or her own voice

It is important to remember that not all children with speech and language disorders will have accompanying hearing loss.
Goals for Success

To help your child achieve speech and language goals, consider:

1. **Monitoring your child:** pay attention to his or her speech, language, and hearing development
2. **Quality involvement:** engage your child in meaningful speech and language activities
3. **Increasing communication:** surround your child with spoken language from an early age
4. **Early intervention:** seek guidance and support from professionals as soon as necessary
Resources and Services

- If you have concerns about your child's speech and language development, contact one of the following professionals:
  - Pediatrician
  - Speech-Language Pathologist
  - Pediatric Audiologist
- Early intervention and special education services are available for qualifying children
- Ask your child’s healthcare provider about support groups

For more information on resources on services available for your child please visit the Early Intervention module at pacs.wustl.edu/kidshearinghealth/
To find a pediatric speech or hearing professional near you, please visit one of the links below:

http://webportal.audiology.org/Custom/FindAnAudiologist.aspx

http://www.asha.org/findpro/