

SPEECH THERAPY

WHAT DO WE DO?

A speech therapist evaluates and treats communication and feeding problems in children and adults.



WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR CHILD AT DIFFERENT AGES?

- **0 - 12 months** - Makes different sounds or puts sounds together (e.g., "ba" or "ma"). Points to what they want. Responds to their names and looks for the person who called them.
- **12 - 18 months** - Uses 12 different single words (e.g., "mama"). Names some body parts. Points to familiar objects when asked. Follows basic instructions (e.g., "bring the bowl").
- **18 - 24 months** - Starts to put two words together to make small sentences (e.g., "mama come" or "mama up"). Says "no" when they don't want something.
- **2 years** - Uses more difficult words. Follows simple two-step instructions (e.g., "Give me the bowl and the spoon").
- **3 years** - Makes longer sentences (e.g., "mommy me hungry"). Recognises basic colours (e.g., "red", "blue", "yellow"). Sorts items into groups (e.g., puts all the spoons together and all the bowls together). Asks "what", "where", and "who" questions. Starts short conversations. Shows frustration when people do not understand what they say.
- **4 years** - Uses difficult sentences (e.g., "Mommy, I want the spoon"). Counts to five and names a few colours. Answers questions about daily tasks. Asks many questions. Describes recent events they did after waking up (e.g., "I eat and then I play and then I...").
- **5 years** - Tells simple short stories. Uses complete sentences and is understood by strangers.

If you cannot see these signs in your child, you could take them to see a speech therapist.

WHO TO CONTACT?

- **University of Fort Hare Department of Speech-Language Therapy - 060 563 1297**
- **Frere Hospital Department of Speech-Language Therapy and Audiology - 043 709 2111**

