

LOOK WHO'S NOT TALKING!!!

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Q and As about Language Delay

1. What is language?
2. How does language develop?
3. What are the red flags in language development?
4. What are the outcomes for language delayed children?

The language of LANGUAGE

- A system of vocal, graphic, and gestural symbols used to communicate feelings, ideas, and orders to others.
- It is considered as the best predictor of future cognitive development.
- 3 important factors:
 - Oral peripheral mechanism
 - Auditory system
 - Brain

DEVELOPMENT OF LANGUAGE SKILLS

Prelinguistic Stage

- Infants communicate before they talk
- As early as 1 month of age, baby establishes eye contact.



■ Newborns

- Suck preferentially to recorded voice of mother
- Awaken to loud voice of parent

■ 2 months

- distinguish vowel from consonant sounds

■ 4 months

- Coo and laugh normally
- Prefer speech with varied rhythm and stress
- Orients to sound

■ Up to 5 months

- Speech sounds are *not* influenced by sounds heard

■ After 5 months

- Babbling starts to imitate parents' speech patterns



First Word Stage

- Average age ~ 11 months (8-18 months)
- Usually accompanied by gestures e.g. "bye"
- Refer to items in the immediate environment like persons, animals, toys, food

Mom!



Two-word Stage

- Word combinations usually appear after ~50 single words
- Expresses a variety of meanings
- Associated with play and imitation
- Echolalia is common

Bom-bom,
Mom!!!



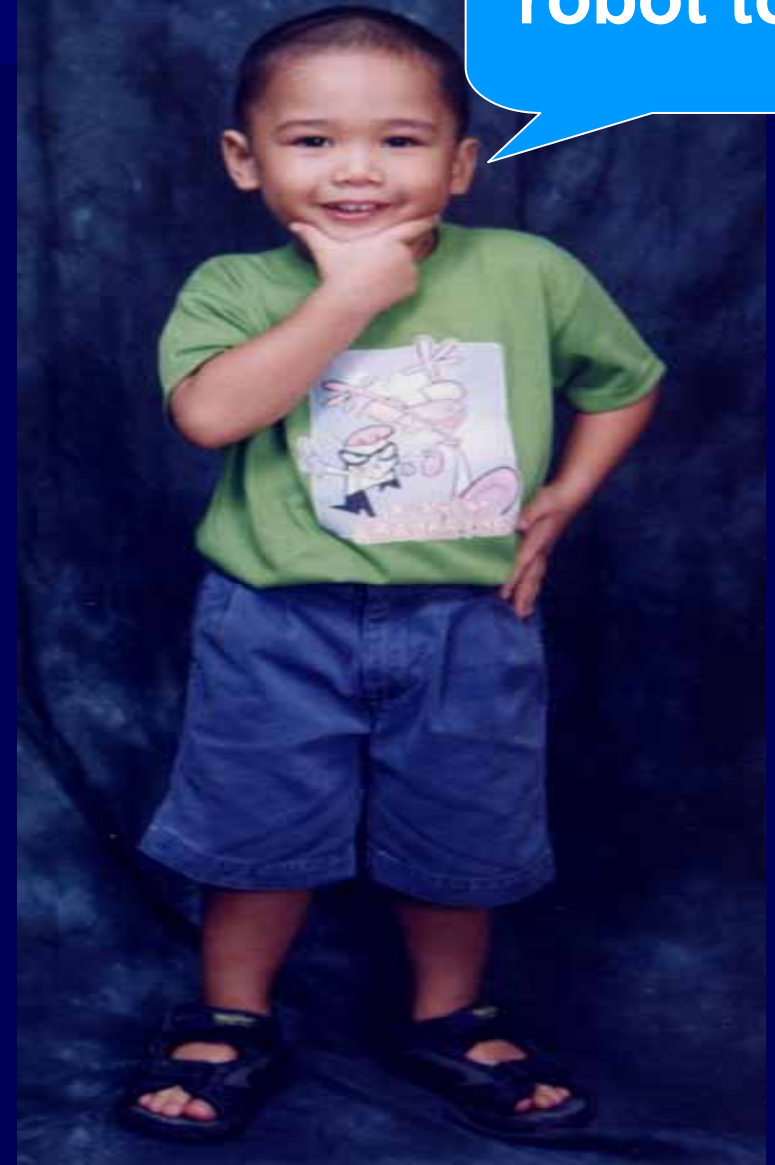
Simplified Sentence

- Telegraphic sentence
- Overgeneralization of morphemes "It broke", "I comed"
- Intentions are announced before taking action



Grammar Development

- Period of rapid development
- All aspects advance rapidly:
 - Vocabulary
 - Receptive and expressive skills
- Progression of rules in grammar
 - “Wanna go” →
 - “Can we go?” →
 - “I want to go outside.”



Ages of Refinement

- 5 years:
 - Few grammatical errors
 - usually self corrected
- 6 years: No apparent difference from adult
- 8 years: Fully formed adult grammar

I want to
be an
astronaut.



RED FLAGS !!!

- At 6 months, does not turn eyes and head to sound coming behind or to side.
- At 12 months, does not babble; does not respond when his name is called.
- At 15 months, does not understand and respond to "no", "bye bye" and bottle.
- At 18 months, not saying single words.

cont. RED FLAGS !!!

- At 21 months, does not respond to simple commands like sit down, come here and stand up.
- At 2 years with excessive and inappropriate jargoning and echoing.
- At 2 years, does not on request point to common body parts.
- At 2 years, no word phrases.

cont. RED FLAGS !!!

- At 30 months, has speech that is not intelligible to family members.
- At 36 months, uses no simple sentences.
- At 36 months, has not begun to ask questions.
- At 36 months, with speech not intelligible to strangers.

- At 4 years of age, notable dysfluent (stutters).
- After 7 years of age, has any speech sound errors.
- At any age has noticeable hypernasality or hyponasality, or has a voice that is a monotone, of inappropriate pitch, unduly loud, inaudible, or consistently hoarse.

Does Delayed Language
Development Matter?

Outcome

- Preschoolers who continue to manifest problems after 5 years may have specific learning disorder as well as social and behavioral difficulties throughout school and careers.



■ Yoshinaga-Itano (1998)

- Identification of children with hearing impairment and intervention prior to age 6 months can lead to typical communicative development by age 3.

THANK YOU!!!