

Speech and Language Guidelines and Procedures for Parent Center

The Parent Center is designed to provide support, give suggestions and to conduct screenings. Parents come to the center with specific questions and concerns about their child's development. Screenings are conducted by observing the child at play and by obtaining information provided by the parents. The following guidelines and procedures outline the steps that the Parent Center staff provide.

Referral to Parent Center

Parents may contact the Center with specific concerns about their child's speech and language development. Parents are invited to attend the Parent Center with their child.

Referral sources:

- A Pediatrician may recommend a speech screening or evaluation.
- Nursery school director or teacher may recommend the Parent Center.
- A parent may come with specific concerns.

Parent Center

- The parent and child attend the Parent Center and share with the staff specific concerns regarding speech and language development.
- The speech language Pathologist conducts a speech screening while engaged in play with the child.
- The screening may occur over several sessions.

Speech Screening

- A speech screening may include the following: a speech sample (which includes spontaneous use/conversation), speech screening of targeted sounds and words, and information obtained from parent regarding development, health and family history.

Following Speech Screening

- If a child's speech is determined to be developmental (needing more time to develop correct sounds and patterns) suggestions and activities are given to the parent to try at home. The parent may want to check back in 3-4 months with the center.
- A child's speech may be monitored by having the child return to the Parent Center for a period of time.
- A nursery school visit to observe the child to determine if speech difficulties are affecting learning.
- Remedial speech services may be provided to help the child with minor speech substitutions.
- A speech evaluation.

Speech Evaluation

- If a speech evaluation is recommended, a PPT (Planning and Placement Team Meeting) will be held to obtain permission to test.
- A speech evaluation is conducted by the Speech Pathologist and a team to determine eligibility for speech services.

Speech Services

If a child is deemed eligible based on results from screening, information observed or obtained from Nursery School and/or results of speech evaluation, direct speech services are recommended at the Planning and Placement Team meeting.

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