

Imitation Skills

Imitation is an important skill to learn as it involves co-operation and interaction between two people, which is necessary for communication.

- Children can learn language by imitating what they hear and see.
- Imitate your child's noises, gestures and facial expressions.
- Join in with your child's play and encourage him to imitate what you do.
- You can encourage eye contact through activities like making funny faces in the mirror, playing with dolls/teddies, 'Simon Says' and songs/rhymes that incorporate movements like 'The Wheels on the Bus'.

Play Skills

Play is an important medium through which children learn language. Play gives children opportunities to learn sounds, language and social skills.

- Try to set aside some time during the day for play activities.
- Two short play sessions about 10-15 minutes may suit your child better. This may depend on the child's attention span.
- Physical play will help your child develop an understanding of the meaning of action words (e.g. throw, kick) and prepositions (e.g. in, on). Always accompany the play with a brief and clear verbal descriptions e.g. kick the ball, 'block in box' etc.
- Learning to play together is an essential part of early communication. Children can learn language and social skills.
- Engaging in imaginative play (e.g. playing with shopping cart, pretend to talk on the phone, pretend to cook etc) promotes learning about the world by acting out their own experiences.

Everyday activities and routines provide the best opportunities for learning language.

Talk to your child about what you are doing throughout the day and try to involve them where possible.

Call us at **6100 9235** today to arrange a consultation or email us at speech@dynamcis.com.sg



Encouraging Speech & Language Development for Pre-Verbal Children



SPEECH THERAPY FOR KIDS

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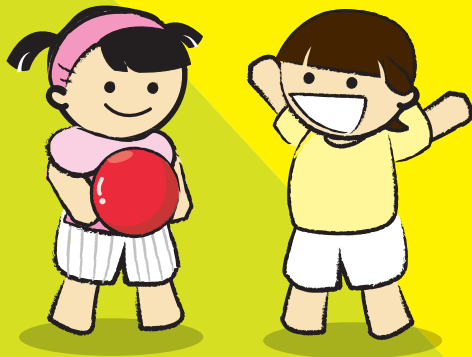
Website: www.dynamics-speech.com.sg

Speech and language therapy for pre-verbal children focuses on developing early communication skills that a child requires to learn language. Here are some ways these communication skills can be encouraged:

 **WE CAN HELP!**

Our trained professionals are ready to help.

**CONTACT US NOW AT
6100 9235**



Contact us Today to arrange a Consultation

We are a friendly and family-oriented centre.

Our Speech-Language Therapists are professionally-trained and internationally-accredited.

Talk to us today!

Attention & Listening

Attention and listening skills are an important prerequisite for learning language. A good attention span will help a child understand language more easily.

- Choose toys which your child is most interested in.
- Playing with the same object in different ways can help develop attention span.
- Adding surprise to games will help add enjoyment and interest e.g. hiding things for the child to find (e.g. treasure hunt games) or wrapping them in paper.

Eye Contact

Eye contact is one of the first communicative intentions that a child develops and shows interest in the communicating partner.

There are many opportunities for improving eye contact during the day, here are some examples.

- Make sure you are at eye level of your child when engaging in activities.
- Tracking activities-Encourage your child to follow toys with his/her eyes. Balloons/bubbles/puppets are interesting to watch. Do these activities slowly and wait for eye contact when the child tries to ask for more of the activity.
- Wait a second before you respond to your child's request (e.g. drink) and wait for eye contact.
- Activities to encourage eye contact may include hiding games, peek-a-boo, put sunglasses on and songs/rhymes.



Turn Taking

Turn taking is a key component in communicating with others. When we are engaged in games or conversation we always take turns to allow our communicating partner to participate in conversation. Turn taking incorporates the ability to wait.

- Turn taking should be encouraged throughout the day.
- The rules of turn taking should be clear e.g. my turn/your turn.
- Give lots of praise when your child has shared well and waiting for a turn.
- You can encourage turn taking through activities like cooking, balls, posting, fishing games, puppets, board games and pop up toys.