



Preface



In the private teaching hospital setting in which we practiced in the 1970s and 1980s, a need existed for easy-to-read parent information about speech and language development and disorders. That need prompted us to write and illustrate a book for parents, *Your Child's Speech and Language: Guidelines for Parents*.¹ We wanted to provide parents with a reference for normal development along with ideas for stimulating and improving a child's speech and language skills. We wanted it to be informative and entertaining. As a follow-up to the book's success, we created the *Speech and Language Handouts*, handy and useful parent information sheets about normal language development as well as special developmental concerns.

Over the years, speech–language pathologists, audiologists, educators, doctors, nurses, and parents have reported much success using the handouts. A Spanish translation of the *Speech and Language Handouts* has extended the outreach to Spanish-speaking parents. In this revision and expansion of the series, we included new topics and listed resources that are of interest to parents as they participate in their child's speech and language health and development.

We hope you enjoy the new and revised topics, and that you and your child grow in your love of language as you engage in the fascinating process of speech and language development.

How To Effectively Use the *Speech and Language Handouts*

In the *Speech and Language Handouts*, we provide parents with ideas for the creative nurturing of their child's speech and language development. We include nine handouts with developmental guidelines for the first 7 years of a child's development, along with enjoyable activities to support and encourage children's speech and language development. Ten additional handouts provide information about and activities for a variety of special developmental concerns. The handouts

¹*Your Child's Speech and Language: Guidelines for Parents*, by M. Brooks and D. Engmann-Hartung, 1978, Austin, TX: PRO-ED.

are listed in Table 1. Various health care professionals and educational specialists use the handouts to enrich and stimulate normal speech and language development and to identify and encourage early treatment when concerns arise. A sampling of professionals who use the handouts follows:

- **Speech–language pathologists** use the handouts as they counsel parents concerned about their child’s development or as they treat children with delays in speech and language skills.

TABLE 1
List of the Speech and Language Handouts

Developmental Handouts

- Speech and Language of the 6- to 12-Month-Old
- Speech and Language of the 12- to 17-Month-Old
- Speech and Language of the 18-Month-Old
- Speech and Language of the 2-Year-Old
- Speech and Language of the 2½-Year-Old
- Speech and Language of the 3-Year-Old
- Speech and Language of the 4-Year-Old
- Speech and Language of the 5-Year-Old
- Speech and Language of the 6-Year-Old

Topical Handouts

- How To Help Your Child Develop Pragmatic Language Skills
- How To Help Your Child Listen
- How To Help Your Child Prevent Hearing Loss from Noise Exposure
- How To Increase Your Child’s Vocabulary
- How To Keep Your Child’s Voice Healthy
- How To Teach Your Child Early Writing Skills
- If You Think Your Child Has a Speech Problem
- If You Think Your Child Stutters
- Reading to Your Child
- If You Think Your Child Has a Hearing Loss



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- **Pediatricians** use the handouts in their offices as part of the developmental checkup during well-child visits and as part of parent education.
- **Preschool teachers** and **child-care center workers** use the handouts in parent–teacher conferences to promote early childhood development.
- **Staff in children’s hospitals** and **maternity and mother–baby centers** find the handouts to be a wonderful gift for new parents.
- **Audiologists, ear–nose–throat physicians, and pediatric neurologists** use the handouts when a child displays hearing loss, repeated ear infections, vocal nodules, and other developmental disabilities.
- **Elementary school educators** find the handouts helpful for kindergarten roundups, for annual speech and hearing screenings, and for parents of children receiving speech and language services. All teachers of young elementary school children should have the handouts as a resource guide to identify children who may have developmental delays.
- **Nurses** who work with parents in doctors’ offices, schools, well-child clinics, high-risk settings, and health fairs find the handouts helpful in identifying and encouraging healthy child-rearing practices.

The handouts have multiple uses. They serve as a delightful and informative public relations and educational tool for anyone working with children and families in a public health, educational, health care, or child care setting. Good speech and language development is everyone’s business.