

Emerge



Believing
in a Child's
Potential to
Flourish

A Child's Place

May 2015

Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy

Phone:
(919) 928-0204

Fax:
(919) 928-9423

3905 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707

Serving children from
birth to adolescence

Using therapy to improve
conditions such as:

Delayed Speech
Developmental Coordination
Disorder
Speech Impairments
Non-communicative Speech
Oral/Verbal Apraxia
Language Disorders
Feeding Difficulties
Autism/Asperger's/PDD
Developmental Delay
Cerebral Palsy
Sensory Integration
Disorders
Sensory Modulation
Disorders
Handwriting Impairments
Fine & Gross Motor Delays

A Private, Independent
Provider



www.EmergeAChildsPlace.com

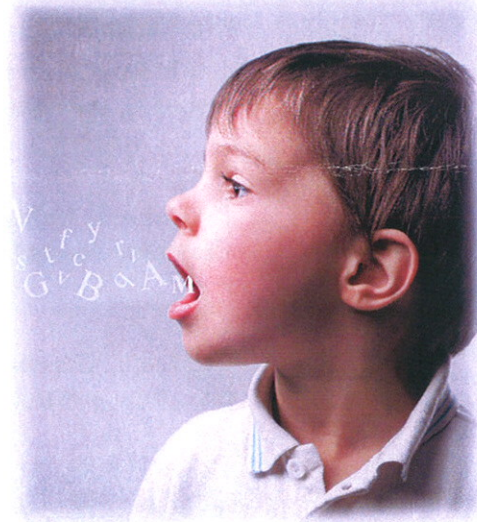


A Very Simple Screening Procedure for Preschoolers



Bonnie Hacker, MHS, OTR/L
Founder / Director

Speech sound disorders (SSD) in preschool and grade school children have been connected with persistent psycho-social challenges, attention deficits, and behavioral and emotional challenges lasting into adulthood.^{1,2} Furthermore, speech sound disorders in young children often exist in combination with other developmental challenges. An early referral for developmental assessment may detect a range of challenges in a timely fashion, so they can be addressed prior to school entry. There is consensus that intensive intervention in the preschool years holds the most promise for resolving challenges and avoiding the later consequences of developmental delays.³ Early detection of speech sound disorders is vital. Simple screening tools incorporated into the routines of child care professionals can help more children get needed attention.



There is a long-standing, well validated screening tool that consists of only one question: "How much of your child's speech can a stranger understand?" Parents are asked to respond "less than half," "about half," "three quarters," or "all or almost all," and their responses are compared to age-based norms. In the original validation study by Coplan and Gleason, this screening tool was found to have 95% sensitivity and specificity compared to a full diagnostic speech assessment.⁴ The norms first established by Coplan and Gleason are as follows:

How Much of a Preschooler's Speech Should a Stranger Understand?

- Age 22 months: about half
- Age 37 months: three quarters
- Age 47 months: all or almost all

These developmental milestones for intelligibility with strangers have been generally confirmed and re-validated in following years.^{5,6} Children who are at the previous age group's intelligibility standard should receive further screening or a full assessment, and they are strong candidates for early intervention.⁷ When speech - language pathology (SLP) intervention is initiated by age three for children with SSD, the majority of children enter school with normal speech development.³

Integrating Occupational and Speech Therapy

Speech sound disorders are among the many pediatric challenges that co-exist with other conditions ranging from motor skills to food aversion to social skills. The combined expertise of occupational and speech therapy helps ensure children can receive more thorough evaluations and interventions. EmERGE provides a more comprehensive pediatric therapy approach by integrating services from both occupational therapists and speech therapists.



Please tell parents about EmERGE – A Child's Place
Believing in a Child's Potential to Flourish