

Emerge



A Child's Place

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Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy

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Serving children from birth
to 14 years old

Using therapy to improve
conditions such as:

Delayed Speech
Dyspraxia
Speech Impairments
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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

Enhancing Literary Skills In Young Children



Bonnie Hacker, OT
Founder / Director

Child development experts have long recommended reading to children as a method for improving their literary skills long-term. However, research recently published in the scientific journal *Child Development*, sheds new light on the recommendation. Helen Raikes and colleagues evaluated the literary skills of 1,100 children at ages 14, 24, and 36 months.¹ They documented a strong correlation between mothers reading to children daily and better language comprehension among the children; larger, more expressive vocabularies; and higher cognitive scores. Surprisingly, daily reading to children before the age of 14 months, even before they could identify letters, correlated with improved outcomes later in life. In addition, the earlier starts seemed to cause what researchers called a "snowball" effect. Early exposure to reading supported enhanced vocabulary gains that in turn provoked more reading and vocabulary gains. In later commentary, Dr. Raikes said, "This study shows relations between reading to children and children's language and cognitive development begin very early, and implies that parent-child book reading and other language-oriented interventions for vulnerable children should begin much earlier than has generally been proposed."



Aside from the obvious recommendation that parents should read to their children daily starting at a very young age, the results of this two-year study have clinical implications. For instance, time lost to speech and language delays also deprive children of the potential "snowball" effect. This study adds to the body of evidence showing that speech and language interventions for very young children do produce positive results.^{2,3} When very young children demonstrate signs of possible speech and language delay, please consider a referral to Emerge - A Child's Place.

Consider referring to Emerge a child who:

12 – 15 Months:

- Is not using exclamatory expressions such as "Oh-oh," "No-no," or "Ta-da"
- Is not experimenting with language during play
- Is not using "no" meaningfully

18 – 24 Months:

- Is not making 2 word sentences
- Is not using intelligible words
- Cannot imitate 2 word phrases

32 – 36 Months:

- Is not responding to direct questions
- Is not speaking in complete sentences
- Is not attempting to use plural nouns

15 – 18 Months:

- Cannot use 5-10 words spontaneously
- Is not attempting to sing songs
- Does not use language to communicate needs
- Is not jabbering tunefully during play

24 – 32 Months:

- Is not attempting past tense sentences like "She jumped."
- Is expressing frustration at not being understood
- Is not imitating and experimenting with words



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

Affordable Care at Emerge – A Child's Place

Many parents find that insurance coverage for pediatric occupational or speech therapy is often limited. In these cases, Emerge has even more to offer in addition to uncompromising quality of care and excellent facilities. Even though the quality of care at Emerge is at the highest levels, you will find the fees at Emerge to be the most affordable.

References

1. Raikes H, Pan B, Luze G, et al. Mother-Child bookreading in low-income families: correlates and outcomes during the first three years of life. *Child Development*; 2006 77(4): 924-953.
2. Nelson H, Nygren P, Walker M. et al. "Screening for speech and language delay in preschool children: systematic evidence review for the US Preventive Services Task Force." *Pediatrics*: Vol 117, No.2, February 2006, pp. 298-319.
3. Law J, Garrett Z, Nye C. "Speech and language therapy interventions for children with primary speech and language delay or disorder." *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2003 (3).