

Eligibility for a Child Who Shows Greater than 25% Delay Only in the Area of Expressive Language

Receptive language delay >20% and <25%	Intelligibility concerns (voice, fluency, & quality of speech sounds)	Frustration during communication	Regression in child's communication over the past three months	Oral motor concerns	Family history of language impairment	Birth or health history associated with increased risk of poor language development ¹	Communication environment is not conducive to facilitating language acquisition ²	Recommendation	
								<i>Watch and See</i> ³	<i>Eligible</i>
								Yes	No
Yes								No	Yes
	Yes							No	Yes
		Yes						No	Yes
			Yes					No	Yes
				Yes				No	Yes
					Yes			No	Yes
						Yes		No	Yes
							Yes	No	Yes

¹Examples: congenital infection, ototoxic medications, chronic otitis media craniofacial anomalies

² Examples: Few conversational initiations, interactions with adults more than peers, difficulty gaining access to activities, parent interaction style more directive than responsive

³ Each of these factors would help the team in determining whether the child should be eligible for early intervention services. When the child displays a delay only in expressive language and there are no other factors present, a “watch and see” approach is recommended.

“Watch and see” means that

1. The child is not found eligible for early intervention at this time
2. Parents are provided suggestions for activities and community resources to promote language development and for monitoring of their child's progress
3. The child is screened within three months to assess progress in communication and in other developmental areas (Screening by the speech language pathologist (SLP) is recommended depending on the age of the child. A developmental specialist may be an appropriate screener with guidance from the SLP)
4. If communication concerns persist, eligibility will be reconsidered.