

PRELINGUISTIC SKILLS

**abilities which kiddos master
BEFORE using words independently**

Typically, when families seek speech services for their littles, the main concern is that they are not using many words (expressive spoken language). Sometimes, the misconception about early intervention is that services will immediately target the acquisition of new words.

However, in many cases, little ones have not yet developed the prelinguistic skills needed to begin targeting spoken words. That said, our first goals with most of our clientecitos include the following skills:

ATTENTION & PLAY

- ATTENTION TO ENVIRONMENT, OBJECTS, AND PEOPLE.
- SHIFT AND SHARE ATTENTION WITH PLAY PARTNERS.
- FUNCTIONAL PLAY WITH A VARIETY OF TOYS AND OBJECTS.
- LONGER ATTENTION SPAN.

GESTURES

- SHAKE HEAD AND NOD.
- GIVE AND SHOW ITEMS.
- RAISE ARMS TO BE PICKED UP.
- WAVE, CLAP, BLOW KISS, PEEK-A-BOO.
- REACH FOR AND POINT TO ITEMS.

COMPREHENSION

- RESPOND TO OWN NAME.
- UNDERSTAND THE NAME OF FAMILIAR ITEMS/ PEOPLE / FOOD / CHARACTERS / TOYS.
- UNDERSTAND FAMILIAR DIRECTIONS/ COMMANDS / STATEMENTS.

IMITATION

- IMITATE ACTIONS WITH OBJECTS.
- IMITATE HAND GESTURES AND FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.
- IMITATE EARLY VOCALIZATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SOUNDS (i.e., vrrm, beep, moo, quack, shh)
- IMITATE EXCLAMATORY WORDS (i.e., yay, wow, ew, yum, uh oh, ouch).

Given that speech therapy is generally only provided once a week, progress on prelinguistic skills is also highly reliant on quality infant education services. Hablemos Inc. is proud to have highly trained Infant Educators who understand the hierarchy of language acquisition.