



Children'sSM
Healthcare of Atlanta

Your Child's Speech-Language Evaluation

What can I expect at my child's speech-language evaluation?

After your child's doctor refers your child for a speech-language evaluation:

- Make an appointment for a speech-language evaluation at one of our outpatient locations by calling our rehabilitation scheduling department at **404-785-7100** or going to **choa.org/rehabappointment**.
- Your child's evaluation is scheduled for a two-hour session.

What do I need to do before my child's evaluation?

- Have a hearing screening done.
 - Your child needs to have a hearing screening done before the speech-language evaluation to make sure there is no hearing problem.
 - Your child may be able to have the screening done at his doctor's office.
 - He may have had his hearing screened at school. Ask the school for a copy of the results.
 - **Bring the results with you to the evaluation.**
 - If your child has not had a hearing screening, make an appointment through our rehabilitation scheduling department at 404-785-7100. It needs to be done before you come for the speech-language evaluation.
- Arrange childcare for your other children so that you can take part in your child's evaluation.
- Complete the case history form included in our welcome packet and on **choa.org/rehabcasehistory**.
 - Answer all of the questions about your family and your child's health, development, speech and language patterns.
 - List any concerns you have about your child's speech and language. This could provide us with information that may be useful during the assessment.
 - **Bring the completed case history with you to the evaluation.**

What can I expect during the evaluation?

The evaluation might be used to find out about your child's:

- Language:
 - Receptive language—what your child understands
 - Expressive language—the way your child communicates
 - Pragmatic language—social use of language. This can include eye contact, paying attention to what a person is saying and taking turns in a conversation
- Articulation—how your child pronounces sounds
- Oral peripheral exam—checks facial muscles, lips, teeth, tongue, palate and throat, while your child eats and talks

What to expect during the evaluation (continued)

- Voice—the pitch, rate and loudness when your child talks
- Fluency—smooth flow of speech. This includes:
 - Listening for sounds or words that are prolonged (stretched out)
 - Listening for sounds or words that are repeated and for hesitations and fillers (“um, “uh”)
- Feeding/swallowing—this includes watching your child’s mouth and face muscles and ability to:
 - Eat, suck, chew and swallow
 - Tolerate different textures without choking or having other problems

If you have any questions, call the Children’s location where your child will be evaluated. Ask to speak with the speech-language pathologist you are scheduled to see.

Go to **choa.org/rehablocations** to find a phone number for your outpatient location.