

Functional Language Development
Adapted from Stanley Greenspan DIR Model

Level	Typical Age	Skills	S/L Goal(s)
1. Being calm and interested in the world	0-2 months	shared attention move head to caregivers voices Help the child calm down	Will make eye contact to familiar adult
2. Engaging and Relating	2-4 months	Smile and interact with caregiver Joint attention to one object Synchronous vocalization and arm movement to adult Engage the child with pleasure and delight	Will have joint attention to object
3.Simple Two Way Gesturing/Purposeful communication	3-9 months	cause and effect social reciprocity two way purposeful communication helps self-regulation(reduce fight flight- as when I cry, something happens) look at choices (do you want milk or juice?) Follow the child's lead and challenge to exchange gestures and emotional signals about interests	Will look at two choices Will imitate an action
4. Shared Social Problem Solving	9-18 months	-circle of communication -50 plus circles is goal(child gives toy, adult takes, gives to child, child does something, etc.)= turn taking in games -learning concepts that will become words Become interactive partner to learn continuous gestures/words	Will take turns with a toy or game
5. Creative Use of Ideas and Symbols	18mon ths- 3 years	-use Words as symbols (if this stage not happening, words they will learn are scripted) Make believe with child	Will use 3 word phrase to request Will increase MLU
6. Analytic/Logical Thinking	3 years	Use symbols in pretend play Meaningful language instead of repetitive phrases Answer Wh?- Why? Negotiate for things that child wants	Will answer a why question with because + reason Will provide one similarity and one difference
7. Multi-Causal Thinking	4 years-8 years	Understand multiple reasons Compare/contrast by several features Use language to describe present, past, and future Use reasoning to connect actions to emotions	Will provide 2-3 different solutions to a problem Will provide 2 similarities and differences of an object

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8. Comparative Thinking	5 years-10	Compare and contrast experiences and emotions	Will provide 2 comparisons/contrasts in a book Will identify how two situations are same/different
9 Internal Sense of Self	10-13	Reflect on feelings Compare how you are feeling to how you should feel High levels of creative and reflective thinking	Will state a degree of an emotion and the reason for this emotion Will provide an alternate solution to a problem (in a story/life situation)