

Suggested Presentation Timeline: Communication and Language Development Overview

This lesson outline is designed to be a teaching tool for early learning professionals who teach this information in a wide variety of settings. Therefore, please use the outline below as a guide and modify it as necessary to meet the needs of your audience and schedule.

Minutes 0 - 10 Welcome and Introductions

- Begin your presentation or workshop by creating a comfortable environment.
- Introduce yourself to your group / audience and orient them to the environment (restrooms, important announcements) .

Minutes 10 - 40 Presentation of Topic

Provide your group with an overview of the topic you will be presenting. This brings all the participants together quickly as well as to engage the group in the learning. Here are some options for how to do this:

1. Tell a story that engages the audience.

Long before babies can talk, they are able to communicate with the important people in their lives. Think about the newborn's cries, the baby's pointing, the toddler's broken sentences. All of these instances show us that babies seem to come "programmed" to communicate.

2. Provide a definition of the topic / terms that are being discussed.

Definition of Language and Communication: Communication is the method by which two or more people interact. The ability to communicate develops rapidly during the first few years of life.

3. Some educators find it helpful to begin with a general question. For example:

- When you think of the words language and/or communication, what ideas come to mind?
- What role do parents play in teaching their children language?

4. Provide an overview that introduces your audience to the research-based information about the topic.

The Communication and Language Development pillar is designed to explore how children communicate during the first five years of life and how parents can foster this healthy growth. The pillar examines three major phases of development: Early Communication (from birth through 18 months); Verbal Development (18 through 36 months); and Emerging Literacy (36-60 months). Each stage of development contains milestones as new skills are built upon existing ones. Language and communication skills begin to develop long before children actually speak their first words and continue to develop in similar as well as new and different ways throughout

childhood and beyond. Parents and caregivers play an essential role in helping to nurture and promote their children's language and communication skills.



Review the goals of what you intend to teach, describe what tools/resources they can expect to gain by attending the event, and present the Parenting Counts Program Curriculum.

Minutes 40 - 50 Applied Learning Activity

- Most audiences are ready for a change in activity after 20-30 minutes of lecture. Consider the composition of your group and decide what type of activity best meets their needs.
- Some educators choose to have participants work in pairs to maximize comfort with the topic, others opt for a group discussion to allow a variety of opinions to be heard and validated.
- Parenting Counts offers multiple video options that can be used during this time to encourage discussion or to continue the learning experience.

Minutes 50 - 60 Closure and Evaluation

- Closure: Be sure to recap the key messages of the presentation as well as provide tools that incorporate the learning into parenting practices.
- Evaluation: Please distribute an evaluation form as part of your presentation. It is important to give participants an opportunity to comment on the presentation as well as to provide you with an assessment of their learning.

