

## Identifying Social Communication Development in Toddlerhood

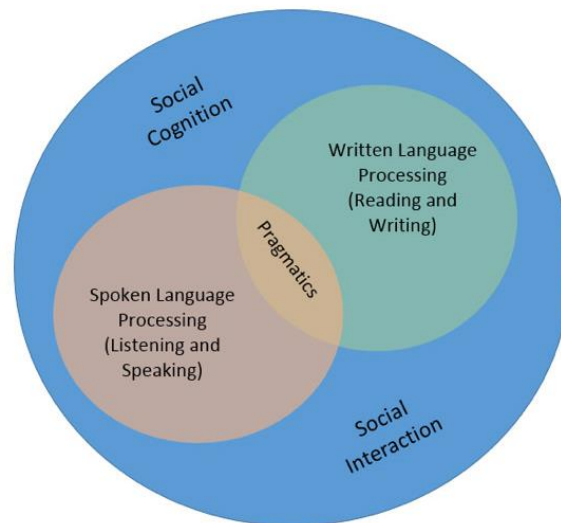
Janine L. Schmedding-Bartley, Ph.D., CCC-SLP  
University of Kentucky  
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders  
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### Learner Outcomes

1. Identify and describe five social communication milestones that typically develop during the first two years of life.
2. Describe the role emotional regulation plays in social communication.
3. Observe and identify coordinated communication in toddlers.
4. Reference social communication milestones to recognize children who are displaying delayed/atypical social communication development.
5. Expose participants to valuable clinical tools

### Social Communication

(ASHA, 2017)



### Five Domains of Social Communication Development in Toddlerhood

- Language development
- Play development
- Social interaction
- Emotional regulation
- Self-directed learning

## Emotional regulation

- Definition
  - Intra- and extra-organismic factors by which emotional arousal is redirected, controlled, modulated, and modified to enable and individual to function adaptively. (Cicchetti, Ganiban, & Barnett, 1991)
- Strategies
  - Behavioral
  - Language
  - Metacognitive
- Types
  - Mutual
  - Self

## Social Communication Milestones

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### Birth – 12 months

- Language
  - Uses gestures to make requests and direct attention
  - Modify voice to share how they feel
- Play
  - Explore objects and repeat actions
  - Functional actions
- Social Interaction
  - Prefers looking at human faces and eyes
  - Plays simple interactive games
  - Intentional communication
  - Joint attention
    - Initiating joint attention
    - Responding to joint attention
- Emotional Regulation
  - Share emotion with caregiver
  - Use behavior strategies to stay engaged
- Self-directed Learning
  - Follow simple directions

## **12 – 18 months**

- Language
  - Significant gesture development
    - 16 gestures by 16 months
  - At least 10 words
- Play
  - Pretend actions with toys
  - Combine several objects to create new
- Social Interaction
  - Coordinated communication
    - Eye gaze + vocalization
    - Eye gaze + gesture
    - Gesture + vocalization
- Emotional Regulation
  - Shift attention from current activity to adult activity
- Self-directed learning
  - Notice opportunities for learning

## **18 – 24 months**

- Language
  - Uses phrases
  - Uses at least 100 words
- Play
  - Combines pretend play actions in a logical sequence
- Social Interaction
  - Persists in communication
  - Verbal turn-taking
  - Uses a variety of communication functions
- Emotional Regulation
  - Say or do something to stay engaged in activity
  - Calm down and return to activity/communication
- Self-directed learning
  - Try new activities

## References & Resources

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