Speech Language Evaluation

A speech/language evaluation measures your child’s communication skills. It is done by a speech/language pathologist in the Hearing and Speech department.

You will be asked to answer questions or complete a written form about your child. From this information, along with your child’s age and attention span, a variety of testing will be given. The tests are to get a sample of your child’s communication ability. This will include the following areas: mouth structure, voice, fluency, sound pronunciation, language understanding and verbal expression. Besides the testing, we will observe your child in play and take into account what you report.

As part of the speech/language evaluation, we require a hearing test. If your child has not had a hearing test in the last 6 months, we will schedule one. See the "Basic Hearing Evaluations" CARE CARD for more information. The hearing test is completed by an audiologist.

After the speech/language evaluation, the speech/language pathologist and audiologist will make recommendations, which may include the following:

- Referral back to your local school district’s Early Childhood Program
- Referral back to primary care physician for other areas of need
- Speech/language therapy
- Referral to other agencies
- A re-evaluation

The speech/language evaluation can be done at:

- Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri, at (816) 234-3677
- College Boulevard location in Overland Park, Kansas, at (913) 696-8844
- Children’s Mercy Northland at (816) 413-2500

You may choose whichever site is more convenient for you. The testing takes about 2 to 2-1/2 hours. So we can focus our attention on your child being evaluated, please find child care for other siblings and do not bring them to this appointment.

Please check your medical insurance policy to determine if a referral is needed for this appointment. You may be responsible for a co-payment, deductible and/or a percentage of the total cost. If you do not have insurance or need additional financial assistance, you can contact the Financial Assistance department at Children’s Mercy at (816) 234-3567.