

BAY AREA SPEECH LANGUAGE LEARNING ASSOCIATES

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From *Teach Me How to Say it Right* by Dorothy P. Dougherty, MA, CCC/SLP

Directions: Please write the answers to the questions below in a journal or notebook that is reserved just for this use. This will give you more space to record the therapist's answers. Also, you'll be able to record any additional questions that come up during the interview, as well as the characteristic communication behaviors of your child at home. Bring this notebook to your first appointment.

Here are some questions to ask before your first appointment:

1. How soon can you see my child for an evaluation?

- 1-2 weeks 2-4 weeks 4 or more weeks

2. What hours do you work?

- morning afternoon after school weekends

It's important to schedule an appointment for a time when your child can be successful. For example, if you must schedule an appointment during his/her usual nap time or mealtime, this may not be advantageous.

3. How long will the evaluation take?

- 1 hour 2 hours more than 2 hours

It's important to know whether the speech/language therapist will evaluate your child's skills in one session, or require the two for you to return several times to complete the evaluation. Also, you want to set aside enough time from your schedule so as not to feel rushed or hurried. If you are nervous about being late, this could cause your child to feel uneasy too.

4. How should I prepare for the evaluation?

The younger your child, the more the evaluator may rely on you to relay information about his/her strengths and weaknesses. Ask what kinds of background history you'll need to provide so that you can answer the therapist's questions completely and accurately.

Perhaps you'll need to refresh your memory by looking in your child's "Baby Book" or by reminiscing with your spouse or child-care provider. Be ready to answer all health-related questions completely and accurately. Make a list of questions to ask the therapist to help you understand your child's difficulties, and ask what to expect in treatment. At home, watch your child and make a list for the therapist of characteristic communication behaviors that you observe your child doing.
