Today’s piece was prepared by Valentine Rae Esposito, MD, MHS based on a Washington Post story [How to recognize if your child is speech delayed (and what to do to help)](https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2019/05/17/how-recognize-if-your-child-is-speech-delayed-what-do-help/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.6df0b474b025)

This article’s attention-gathering title orients the reader to a story that provides an overview of the process the author experienced in her efforts to getting her 3-year-old evaluated for speech delay. The author is effective in conveying the experience, emphasizing that it took her a while to appreciate her son’s speech delay, noting she was enamored by the cuteness of his speech, even at age 3 years, an experience that perhaps many parents can relate to. The author provides speech and language milestones, helping readers more accurately identify speech & language delay. Further, she emphasizes the critical importance of early intervention, and lays out the team of support to families including: pediatricians, speech pathologists, school districts, and fellow parents. The author describes the process of evaluation and management, including Early Intervention and Special Education.

While the outline is clearly and logically presented, the author fails to mention how speech delay can occur alongside a variety of coexisting neurodevelopmental, psychosocial, and/or behavioral concerns, which may perhaps oversimplify the phenomenon for some children. This may be outside the intended scope of her article, but readers should be aware that concerns for speech delay should be a shared process that includes general medical/pediatric participation.

The following easy-to-read resources provided via the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) can empower parents to recognize and raise their concerns about their young children’s communication skills and, in working with their child’s primary care provider, where and how to mobilize evaluation and management. The resources also provide links to other helpful related resources.

**RESOURCES ON SPEECH/LANGUAGE DELAY:**

[Do’s and Don’ts in raising concerns about Speech/Language Development](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/toddler/Pages/How-to-Raise-Concerns-about-Childs-Speech-Language-Development.aspx) *AAP’s Healthy Children. Focuses on early child development, with Q&A for parents*

[Language Delays in Toddlers: Info for Parents](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/toddler/Pages/Language-Delay.aspx) *AAP’s Healthy Children*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!