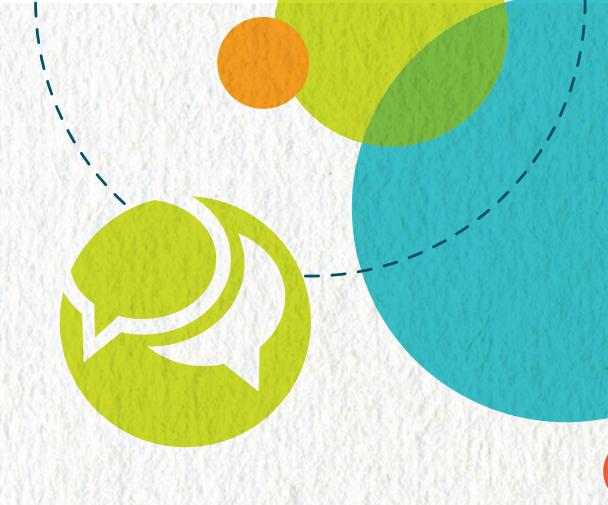# RECEPTIVE & EXPRESSIVE
Language *a closer look*

In general, receptive language refers to listening skills and expressive language refers to speaking with words, sounds, and signs. Both are important components for effective communication.

Receptive Language & ## Expressive Language

The understanding of information provided in a variety of ways, such as sounds and words, movements and gestures, and signs and symbols.

Children often acquire elements of receptive language faster than expressive language, so our receptive language vocabulary is generally larger than our expressive language vocabulary.

skills

- Following simple multi-step instructions
- Answering comprehension questions based on a picture or story
- Making predictions based on what has happened before
- Understanding vocabulary words with concepts that help us describe and talk about things like time and quantity

The ability to communicate thoughts and feelings through words, gestures, signs, and symbols.
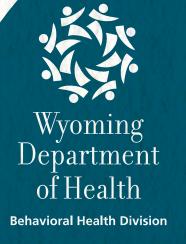
This can be as simple as pointing to a desired object to talking, using sign language, writing, using a speech-generating device, or using a picture exchange system.

skills

- Using vocabulary skills to make requests, end an activity, get attention, label categories, or describe an object
- Choosing the right grammar forms, such as past tense for something that happened yesterday
- Putting words in the right order or sentence structure so they make sense

Ways to Develop Your Child's Receptive & Expressive Language Skills

Is your child meeting their milestones? Find your free developmental screening center at screenforsuccess.org/regional-map!

- Read books together
- Talk to your children and with your children, and listen to them talk to you
- Play together and facilitate time to play with their peers
- Engage in predictable routines to expose your children to a consistent set of words in a familiar context

Wyoming Department of Health
Behavioral Health Division

Screen for Success is brought to you by the Wyoming Department of Health and the Early Intervention and Education Program

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