

Speech-language services for cleft palate by developmental stage

Developmental Stage	Speech-language Services
Newborn (birth-4 weeks)	Promote near-normal feeding. Provide support to family.
Infant (1-12 months)	Evaluate feeding. Educate family about the effect of cleft on speech. Begin speech-language evaluation and early intervention.
Toddler/preschool (1-5 years)	Evaluate feeding. Expand speech-language evaluations and begin direct intervention.
School age (5-13 years)	Evaluate feeding. Continue speech-language evaluation including assessment of velopharyngeal function.
Teenage (13-18 years)	Assess feeding. Evaluate speech-language skills, including client's perception of need for treatment.
Adult (18 years and older)	Provide speech-language services as requested by client.

Source: Based on Elemendorf, E. N, D'Antonio, L. L. and Hardesty, R. A. Assessment of the patient with cleft lip and palate: A developmental approach. *Clinics in Plastic Surgery*, vol. 20, no. 4: 607-621 (1993).