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Speech and language are vital to a child's development of many other skills that will carry him or her through life. Monitoring the development of language is important says Dr. Martin Fujiki of the University of Nevada School of Medicine on today's HEALTHINE:

"One of the most exciting things about being a parent is watching a young child learn to talk. And parents often ask what they can expect from this process. I would say that it is important to remember that children learn at their own rate. However, by three and a half or four, that child should be able to be understood by most adults and other children as well, although the speech at that time won't be perfect. If a problem is suspected, it may be well worth the time to have the child examined by a qualified speech pathologist, in that speech and language problems can have serious social and academic consequences. The earlier the treatment is initiated, the more likely it is to be successful."

This is HEALTHLINE from the University of Nevada School of Medicine.