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We convey the importance of verbal and nonverbal communication. Regardless of language, we speak using vowels and consonant sounds that form into words. There is a lot of information that we inadvertently pass on through speech. For example, our speech can convey age, gender, regional accents, education, and health. As you can begin to see, speech is an important part of the human experience. The ability to speak and understand others is essential for our social well-being. Speech disorders and conditions that affect our ability to speak can have a big impact on us. Problems that affect rhetorical ability can be mild (lisp), moderate (bronchitis), or severe (paralysis). Therapy and counseling can correct mild speaking problems. Surgery and medication can correct some of the more serious speech problems. Usually our left brain processes the tongue. Those with left brain damage tend to have problems with grammar and syntax. In addition, damage to a certain part of the brain, the Wernicke area, results in poor understanding of language. Babies born long before maturity still face risks – but their chances of growing into strong and healthy babies are better than ever. Padded in amniotic fluid and attached to the natural life support system of the umbilical cord, the developing baby usually remains safe and comfortable in the mother's womb for 37 to 40 weeks. But nearly 12 percent of children make their entrance to the world earlier - sometimes long before 37. Not so long ago, many premature babies did not survive outside the uterus. Today, thanks to medical technology and treatments unheard of a little more than a decade ago, even the smallest preemies have a better chance of prospering. Now we expect to lose very few babies born after 30 weeks and weigh just two pounds at birth, and the outlook for babies born at 28 and even 25 weeks is pretty good, says Edward Bell, M.D., director of neonatology at Children's Hospital of Iowa, in Iowa City. Some hospitals are able to save babies weighing less than a pound and were born as early as 22 weeks. While the obstacles faced by premature babies are still daunting, their standards of care have never been higher, and their future looks brighter than ever. Boost Your Baby Health Before Birth with significant breakthroughs in neonatal care, premature is still a serious health threat - it is the leading cause of death in the first month of life. And while doctors are now able to save many other preemies, extremely premature babies often face long-term health problems. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to reduce the risk of premature birth. Step 1. Have a biased tour. If you are considering getting pregnant, talk to your doctor now to get screened for any health conditions that may compromise a full-term pregnancy. Known risk factors include diabetes, anemia, high blood pressure, hypothyroidism, obesity, sexually transmitted diseases and urinary tract Get these conditions under control before conception. Step 2. Practice good prenatal care. Keep your ob-gyn appointments, eat properly, and get regular exercise. If you have delivered prematurely or are over 35 years of age, it is especially important that you be closely monitored. African-American women should be extremely vigilant; for reasons that experts do not understand, they have twice the rate of preemie birth as white supremacists. Step 3. Stay away from alcohol and cigarettes. Women who drink, smoke or abuse drugs during pregnancy are more likely to give birth prematurely. Also, talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking if you are pregnant or trying to get pregnant. Step 4. De-stress. Constant, low-grade stress can increase the risk of premature births, says Siobhan Dolan, MD, assistant medical director for March of Dimes. Yoga, meditation and a daily walking regime can help you relax. Step 5. To know the signs of premature birth. If you notice frequent, regular contractions (ten minutes or less apart), vaginal bleeding or watery discharge, low back pain, or cramps that feel like menstruation, call your doctor immediately. Work can sometimes be stopped or slowed down by medication - and even a few extra days in the womb can make a difference for your baby. What does preemie look like? Babies born early - especially those that come before 28 weeks of pregnancy - rarely have the appearance of full-term newborns. Here's what to expect with an early arrival. He was born at 24 to 28 weeks (extremely premature) The baby is thin and small, and his head seems a little too big for his body. Since the outermost layer of skin has not yet developed, it seems somewhat translucent and reddish. Soft, upstage hair like peach fluff covers his limbs and torso. This hair, which protected his skin in the womb, will be shed in six to eight weeks. If he is born before week 26, his eyes can remain closed a few days after birth. Born at 28 to 32 weeks (Very premature) The baby has the body proportions of a typical newborn, but she does not yet have the muscle strength to bend her arms and legs to the classic fetal position. Instead, she extends her limbs to the side while lying on her back. Since vision is the last sensory system to mature, she has a hard time focusing on objects that are not too close to her face. Born at the age of 32 to 37 weeks (Prematurely) The outer layer of the skin is almost completely developed at this stage, so that the baby looks similar to a full-fledged child, only slightly smaller. He's strong enough to grab a finger with his hand. Even if the child has exceeded the threshold at which virtually all preemies survive, staying in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) may still be necessary to ensure that his lungs, his body temperature, and all his vital functions are stable. Shot to Prevent Early Deliveries When women at high risk for term labor are given injections of a progesterone-type hormone beginning in the 16th week of pregnancy, their chances of premature are reduced by one-third, according to a recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine. Premature babies can spend weeks or months in the I.C.U., where recent medical innovations have revolutionized treatment. Today's preemies benefit from this significant development. To exchange stories and support with other parents, go to the Preemies bulletin board. Everett's speech was a draw, but his speech is not permanent. Why? First, Everett played to the crowd, citing Southern aggression and Confederate conspiracy. Lincoln, on the other hand, looked at the overall picture. He gave a speech about maintaining self-government, rather than one battle. As we mentioned, he did not even say the words Gettysburg, slavery, the Confederacy or the Union. Instead of bragging about divisive issues or narrowly defining his speech with battle, he spoke very broadly. Instead of angry against the Confederate, as Everett did, Lincoln emphasized the country's healing and work on the ideals set out in the Declaration of Independence. Advertising When it comes to speaking style, Lincoln has also departed from Everett. He used a lot of floral and archaic phrases, but he was much simpler and simpler. This more direct form of speech has only recently begun to catch on. While the use of romantic language was still prevalent, Lincoln was among those who acknowledged the need for more concise language. People used the telegraph to communicate during the war, and dispatch had to get to the point quickly if they were to be wired. Lincoln's world was adapting to faster forms of communication, and speeches like Gettysburg's reflected the changing times of Gettysburg's address are seen as a pivotal moment in the way Americans viewed themselves and their government. The phrase Lincoln used at the end of the speech - the government of the people, the people, for the people - was a new interpretation of American government and society. Before, people talked about ending slavery, but few talked about equality. And while Lincoln was not necessarily a proponent of full equality for African-Americans, the concept that we as humans are at least equal, which is generally accepted in modern American political thinking, was a fairly radical proposition. With the speech, in fact, Lincoln redirected political thinking in America to his interpretation of the Declaration of Independence as opposed to the Constitution. The writer Garry Wills describes change as a change in which the Constitution is simply a means to an end, with the end being the ideals of the Declaration of Independence [source: Wills]. Since then, the unique ideal that all people are equal has driven much of America's political goals. And instead of convoluted political rhetoric more closely related to romantic language, Lincoln gets to the point in Gettysburg's speech. scientist Philip Abbott summed up the significance of Lincoln's speech: In Gettysburg, he made his concept so simple and eloquent that the address is considered a masterpiece of political discourse [source: Abbott]. Abbott].