



Promoting Language Development



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Why do children need language?



TO
COMMUNICATE



TO LEARN THE
WORLD



TO BUILD
RELATIONSHIPS





- Language delays are the **most common** types of developmental delay.
- **One out of 5 children** will learn to talk later than other children their age.
- Some children may struggle with **behavior issues** out of frustration when they can't fully express their needs or wants.



Possible causes language delay?

- hearing problems and ear infections
- Having a family history of speech or language problems
- Prematurity/low birth weight
- Intellectual disability
- Developmental disorders or syndromes like Autism or Down syndrome





How should I know if my child has a language delay?



By 1 year

Most babies will:

- Respond to their name most of the time.
- Wave goodbye.
- Look where you point when you say, "Look at the ___."
- Say at least 1 word.
- Point to items they want that are out of reach or make sounds while pointing.



What can parents do to help?

- Have eye contact with your baby!
- Respond to your baby by imitating their sounds and talking to them.
- Help your baby to copy actions like peek-a-boo, clapping, and waving.
- Talk about your activities throughout the day. Narrate what you're doing and what the baby is doing. Use a gentle, soft voice.





Between 1 and 2 years, most toddlers will:

- Follow simple commands.
- Bring objects from another room when asked.
- Point to a few body parts when asked.
- Use and understand at least 50 words for food, toys, animals, and body parts.



What can parents do to help ?

- Have quality time with your toddler!
- Play with sounds. Listen to the clock tick, and say “t-t-t.” Make car or plane sounds, like “v-v-v-v.” Blow bubbles and make the sound “b-b-b-b.”
- Use short words and sentences that your child can repeat. Add to words your child says.

If they say **car**, you can say, “You're right! That is a big red car.”



At about 3 years, most kids will...

- Say their name when asked.
- Use some plural words like birds or toys.
- Uses –ing verbs like eating or running.
- Ask why and how.



Most 4-year-olds...

- Compare things, using words like bigger or shorter.
- Understand and use location words, like inside, on, and under.
- Use words like “a” or “the” when talking, like a book or the dog.





When they are 5 years old, most children...

- Produce long, grammatically correct, sentences.
- Their speech is understandable for others.
- Recognize and name 10 or more letters and can usually write their name.



What can parents of preschoolers do to help?

- Keep teaching your child new words. Explain what they mean.
- Teach your child to ask for help when they do not understand what a word means.
- Tell stories that are easy to follow. Help your child guess what will happen next in the story. Act out the stories or put on puppet shows.
- Let your child tell you how to do something. This will also boost their confidence as well!





Talk to your child in the languages you are most comfortable using.

If your family is multilingual, give your child many chances to hear and practice your languages daily.

Learning multiple languages will not cause speech or language problems.

