

Talking: What to expect and when

Age Range	What to expect	How you can help
0—6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> babbling with sounds e.g. mama, baba Crying or vocalising to get your attention Having different noises for different needs (e.g. tired Vs hungry) Recognising the voice of familiar people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> copy your baby's sounds such as "ma," "da," and "ba" Don't be afraid to talk to your baby in a 'singsong' voice Sound 'lively' and interesting when talking Use gestures along with words e.g. say "bye-bye" and wave. Sing songs or nursery rhymes
6—12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond when their name is called Develop early gestures e.g. waving and pointing Beginning to understand some commonly used single words e.g. bye bye, dog, mummy, daddy. Enjoy turns in communication e.g. copying sounds made by familiar people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use single words to talk about what you are doing during their every day activities e.g. eating, bath time, getting dressed. Copy your baby's sounds when they are babbling to help them to enjoy taking turns with you. Use gestures as you say words to help them to understand what the words mean Use lots of repetition of your single words to help them learn new words Have special time with your child each day where you spend time playing with toys together.
12—18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning to use first words e.g. teddy, mamma. Usually able to say around 20 single words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Label the things they are interested in e.g. 'teddy' Talk to your child at their level so that you are face to face Use lots of repetition of 1-2 word phrases. Try to avoid asking lots of questions

Age Range	What to expect	How you can help
18 month— 24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to use 50 or more single words • Beginning to put short phrases together containing 2 words e.g. 'mummy gone', or 'daddy juice'. • Copying words used by adults frequently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Label the things they are interested in e.g. 'teddy' using short phrases e.g. 'love teddy' • Label lots of action words with gestures (e.g. jump, paint, kick, wash) • 'Add a word' to single words your child uses. If they say 'biscuit', you say 'eat biscuit' • Try to avoid asking lots of questions
2—3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using phrases with at least 2-3 words containing action words. • Grammar emerging e.g. using plural 's', past tense 'fell', using prepositions e.g. in/on • Asking questions and able to answer simple who/what/where questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue 'adding a word' onto what they have said to show how to expand their phrases. • Try to avoid asking lots of questions • Give your child time to respond to what you have said • Model grammatically correct sentences. E.g. child says 'he is eating' (talking about girl), adult says 'yes she is eating, she is a girl'.
3—4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer sentences, able to talk about what happened and sequence events • Using vocabulary around size, shapes, colours more consistently. • Begin to make predictions about what might happen next 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't be afraid to use new words when talking with your child. • Explain what new words mean e.g. 'huge means really big' and use repetition of new vocabulary • Give your child time to respond to what you have said • Model early story telling e.g. sharing what happened in your day will help them to be able to structure their own sentences