

MAY IS SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH!



Get the Facts on...

Speech and  
Language  
Development for  
Babies and  
Preschoolers

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# Speech and Language Development for Babies and Preschoolers

**Babies learn to talk by listening to voices and sounds. All babies develop at different rates.**

It is often hard to detect if your infant or toddler has a speech or language problem. Trust your instincts. If you suspect a problem, talk to your family doctor or see a speech-language pathologist. If a speech or language problem goes unnoticed the child may face life-long difficulties. Even children under the age of two can be helped with speech and language development.

**Early detection is vital!**

## Talking Tips

- read colourful picture books
- recite nursery rhymes
- sing songs, use short words
- talk to your baby while dressing
- talk simply and clearly
- ensure face-to-face communication when your child is talking
- praise your child's efforts to communicate
- describe what your child is doing, feeling and learning



## Milestones for Development

### Up to 3 Months

- Makes lots of noises (e.g., coos and gurgles).
- Reacts to loud noises or new sounds.
- Is soothed by calm, gentle voices.



### 6 Months

- Watches your face and makes noise when you talk.
- Coos and squeals for attention.
- Cries differently when hungry.

### 12 Months

- Understands their own name and other common words when used with gestures like “bye-bye.”
- Says sounds like “ba ba, na na, ma ma.”
- Sings along, laughs, or imitates others.

### 18 Months

- Understands simple questions like “where is your nose”.
- Makes gestures or asks for “more” or “again”.
- Babbles, sounding like sentences.

### 2 Years

- Understands more words than he/she can say.
- Uses two-word sentences like “what’s that”.
- Understands simple directions, like “get your coat.”

### 2-3 Years

- Asks questions and uses short sentences.
- Uses 200 or more words.
- Listens to stories and answers simple questions.