

# Your child's speech and language development

18 months – 2 years

Between these ages your child will learn to:

- ♦ say 2 word sentences
- ♦ use words which tell about people and things
- ♦ use his/her name
- ♦ use 50 or more words
- ♦ enjoy nursery rhymes and join in with some songs
- ♦ listen to a short story
- ♦ recognise pictures and name them
- ♦ understand simple concepts such as 'in', 'on', 'under'
- ♦ identify 5 body parts



2 years – 2½ years

Between these ages your child will learn to:

- ♦ use 200 or more recognisable words
- ♦ continually ask questions such as 'where', 'what'
- ♦ use pronouns 'I', 'me', 'we'
- ♦ stop using jargon
- ♦ frequently use 2 or 3 word sentences
- ♦ identify all common objects
- ♦ enjoy familiar stories



Your child may also begin to have periods of non-fluent speech at this age (similar to stuttering).

2½ years – 3 years

Between these ages your child will learn to:

- ♦ talk in short sentences
- ♦ use a large vocabulary
- ♦ accurately use the following sounds: p, b, m, h, w, n, t, d, y
- ♦ ask many questions
- ♦ say his/her full name
- ♦ carry on a simple conversation
- ♦ understand most of what is said to them
- ♦ choose between objects
- ♦ knows the difference between past and future
- ♦ take turns when playing

At 3 years of age your child's speech will still contain many errors. Sounds may be produced incorrectly and grammatical errors will occur.

## Individual differences in learning to talk

There is a lot of variation in children's development and not all children go through the same stages at the same time.

The descriptions provided are a general guide for communication development between the ages of 18 months and three years of age.

If most of your child's skills fall one or more age groups behind his/her age, we recommend you contact a Speech Pathologist or discuss your concerns with your Family and Child Health Nurse.



### For more information:

Preschool age children:  
Contact your local Family and Child  
Health Nurse

School age children attending public  
schools may be referred for  
Speech Pathology Services  
through their school

Parents of children from private schools  
may contact the  
Speech Pathology Department  
of the nearest public hospital

Private service may be accessed  
by contacting:  
Speech Pathology Australia –  
(03) 9642 4899  
(for names of local speech therapists)

Speech Pathology is covered by most  
health funds in their 'Extras' cover

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# SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

## 18 months to 3 years



## Family, Child and Youth Health Service