



Toddler TALK



Red flags in Speech and Language Development

Speech and language development – really all child development – should be robust. They make it look easy most of the time! If it's not easy, it's worth asking why. Talk to your pediatrician or a speech therapist if your child:

From Birth to 12 months

- Doesn't
 - Seem to notice new sounds, people, things in the environment
 - Look toward your voice
 - Make any sounds or makes very few sounds
- Has chronic ear infections

Around 12-24 months

- Doesn't
 - imitate gestures or sounds
 - use their voice frequently
 - make a variety of consonant and vowel sounds
 - make eye contact
 - use single words reliably
 - begin to combine words in new ways

By Age Three

- Seems to talk less than peers
- Seems to talk much less clearly than peers
- Is difficult to understand or follow what they say
- Has persistent stuttering that appears to bother them
- Seems frustrated and frequently acts out
- Communicates with gestures and single words rather than full sentences
- Does not seem to hear you when you call their name
- Follows directions only after watching what others do – slow to follow directions
- Does not appear interested in or seems to have trouble playing with peers

Age Four

- Has a hard time 'remembering' common words
- Starts a story, but is very hard to follow
- Is still hard to understand when they speak

Age Five

- Does not have friends
- Does not "like" school or says it's "boring"
- Pronunciation is not changing / getting clearer
- Does not "like" to read or be read to
- Has a hard time making rhymes or engaging in word play