



SpeechWise



Understanding Speech, Language, and Communication Needs

2-3 Years

You might have started to notice a difference between how your child talks and communicates and other children their age. Language develops quickly at this age so they may well catch up given time. If you're concerned talk to your child's nursery or health visitor - they will be able to advise you.



What to expect	Signs to watch for	How you can help
• Understand simple 'who', 'what' and 'where' questions • Understand longer instructions, like 'put teddy on the bed' • Understand around 300+ words • Make short sentences using 4-5 words like, 'she took the doll' • Can make the sounds p, b, t, d, m, n, w, k and g in words when talking. • Sometimes if they are unsure when talking, they may sound like they are stammering	• Instead of saying what they want, your child points or shows you • Speaking in single words instead of simple sentence • Difficulty understanding simple instructions • You have difficulty understanding a lot of what your child says	• Model longer sentences, 3-4 words • Use imaginative and pretend play to introduce new words and phrases • Take turns in conversation by pausing and waiting • Avoid correcting or asking too many questions of the child. Focus on interacting.



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3-4 Years

As you start preparing for your child starting school, it's natural to worry if they aren't talking as much as their peers. Remember everyone talks and communicates differently - some children just have more to say than others!



What to expect	Signs to watch for	How you can help
• Answer some simple questions after listening to a storybook with pictures • Begin to try and answer some 'why' questions • Make sentences using 4-6 words • Begin to talk about the past ('I walked') and the future ('I will') • Share a short story about something they saw or experienced • Make the sounds p, b, t, d, m, n, w, k, g, s, f, l and y in words when they are talking.	• It is difficult to understand your child when they speak in sentences because the words are jumbled up • It is difficult for your child to understand and follow instructions • Adults who are not familiar to your children have difficulty understanding them	• Model longer sentences to your child. For example, if your child says, 'I see a bird', you say, 'Yes, I see a big bird. A big bird with brown wings' • Ask some 'why / how' questions to encourage more detailed responses • Use everyday moments to label, comment and describe what is happening • Support storytelling and sequencing by asking questions like, 'What happens next?'

Find out more at: www.speechandlanguage.org.uk

www.speechwisetherapy.co.uk



SpeechWise Therapy

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