



# I'm 2 years old and I'm a real little talker!

Early Years Speech, Language and Communication Development



# Your child should be starting to:

- understand simple instructions; for example “Get your shoes”
- focus on an activity of their own choice, but they can’t concentrate on playing and listening to you at the same time
- use about 50 words and be confident using sounds like ‘p’, ‘b’, ‘m’, ‘w’, ‘n’, ‘a’, ‘e’, ‘i’, ‘o’, ‘u’. Mum and dad will be able to understand them best
- echo words they hear; and
- put two words together to make little sentences; for example “More drink”.

*From the ICAN Stages of Speech  
and Language Development*

**No matter how old I am – one of the best ways to help my speech and language development is to have some quiet time with me so we can talk, sing songs or look at books.**

**It is always best to make sure that the TV and music are switched off when we play.**

# Helpful hints for 2-2½ years

Talk to me when we are doing everyday activities or routines like bath time. It is great when you use simple language and short sentences such as, “Wash tummy” “Wash face”.

Give me a choice, then I will have the chance to talk to you; for example, “Do you want juice or milk?”

Don't worry if I say a word and it doesn't sound right, just say it again in the right way. So if I say “Tat”, you can say, “Yes, there is a *cat*”

When I am talking, say the words back to me but add more words. If I say “Car”, then you could say, “Yes, there is a big *red car*.”



I have difficulty switching my attention from my toys to your voice. Call my name before talking to me to help me pay attention to you.

**Please remember that all children develop speech and language at different times and different speeds, so it can be perfectly ok for your child not to be showing all the behaviours in this leaflet.**

**If you have any questions or any concerns about your child's speech, language or communication, please contact your Health Visitor.**

**This leaflet has been developed in partnership between Sure Start Children's Centres and the Children's Integrated Therapy and Equipment Service, with thanks to the Parents' Forum.**

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