



I'm 3 years old... just try keeping me quiet!

Early Years Speech, Language and Communication Development



Your child should be starting to:

- ask lots of questions to help them learn about the world
- answer simple ‘who’, ‘what’ and ‘where’ questions
- follow longer instructions with three key words; for example, “Find the *cup* and put it in *Kim’s bag*”
- use descriptive words
- use sentences of around four to six words
- use plurals, prepositions (in, on, under) and pronouns (me, him, she)
- join in with others’ play
- understand many of the things you say but will still need help to learn new words
- express emotions using words, not just actions and sounds; and
- talk clearly enough to be understood by different people, but some sounds will still be hard to say.

*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 3-4 years

Because my language is developing so much, I might start to stumble on some words. This is ok, just give me lots of time to talk and try not to draw attention to the stumbles.

I love make-believe games and really enjoy it when you play these with me.

Call my name first when you're talking to me, so I am ready to listen.

Read my favourite book to me over and over again. Encourage me to join in because I like to pretend I can read too.



I feel really good when you look at me while I'm talking. It lets me know that what I'm saying is important.

Say words to me how I would say them if I could. If I say "I **b**uyed the book", say back to me "**Yes, you bought the book**". I will copy when I'm ready but don't make me.

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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East Sussex County Council

County Hall

St Anne's Crescent

Lewes BN7 1UE

Phone: 0345 60 80 190

Fax: 01273 481261

Website: eastsussex.gov.uk/contactus

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