



Transforming early Education And Child Health Research Centre

Discovering ways to encourage your child's speech and language

Webinar 21st October 2021

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY



As children grow, they learn to share their thoughts, feelings, interests and needs.

This starts with skills such as looking, using different gestures and vocalizing and builds towards using sounds, words and sentences to share meaning.

Children learn these skills by **watching, copying and practicing them in play with their family, friends and caregivers.**



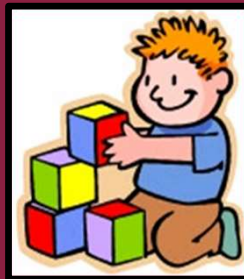
Learning to talk



Listening to and making sounds (birth – 6 months)



Babbling with single sounds (6 months) and with a range of different sounds (9-10 months)



Jargon (10 months) and proto-words (around 11-12 months)



Using 1- 2 word combinations (1- 2 years)



Using phrases people (2-3 years)



Using sentences (4 years onwards)

A helpful way to check on your child's communication development is to check the number of words they know and say.

Parents and carers are great reporters of their children's skills. You can check how your child's early communication skills are developing by:



Completing the OZI-SF online



Completing the ERLI online



Using your child Personal Health Record as a guide

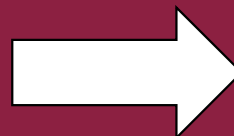
When children start to talk, not all words will
be pronounced clearly

Words gradually become clearer as children
learn to use a wider range of speech sounds

Speech sounds are learned during the toddler
and preschool years

When are speech sounds learned?

Lots of
change
between 2-
4 years



<https://www.csu.edu.au/research/multilingual-speech/speech-acquisition>



A helpful indicator of speech development is how well other people, who are unfamiliar with your child, understand your child's speech.

So, how much of your child's speech should be understood by others?

- 2-year-olds: 50%
- 4-year-olds: 100%



McLeod, S. (2012). *Summary of 250 cross-linguistic studies of speech acquisition*. Bathurst, NSW, Australia: Charles Sturt University. Retrieved 10/18/21 from <http://www.csu.edu.au/research/multilingual-speech/speech-acquisition>


The slide features a dark red background with a subtle diagonal line pattern. Several stylized orange line-art flowers are scattered across the slide, primarily around the central text. There are seven such flowers in total, each with a central dot and four petal-like loops.

Example activities to promote children's speech and language development

The slide features a dark red background with a subtle diagonal line pattern. Seven decorative orange line-art flowers are scattered around the central text. The text itself is in a white, sans-serif font.

A focus on “shared book reading” with children

Why spend time reading books with children?



The size of a child's
vocabulary and the
accuracy of their speech
is important for literacy
development

Literacy development
doesn't start on the
first day of school...



**“It is within the family context
that most children acquire an early
understanding of literacy [reading &
writing] before they reach school age”**

(Brown et al., 2012)



This does not mean that families need to teach their child to read and write before they start school. Rather, families can help their children learn “pre-literacy” skills (i.e., foundations skills) in the years before school.



Think about all the different ways that children are exposed to “literacy” in everyday life




A great way you can be deliberate in helping your child learn about literacy (and develop speech and vocabulary) is through shared-book reading

When reading a book with your child, what do you do and say? There are many ways you could help develop your child's speech, language skills and 'pre-literacy' skills



As you watch Cheryl's "shared book reading video" see if you can identify 10 different strategies she uses to help develop children's speech, language, and pre-literacy skills



**Talk about sounds
in written words
and how sounds
are made with our
mouth**

**Point to
letters
and words**

**Talk about the
title of a book**

**Show your
child how to
hold and
open a book,
starting from
the front
cover**

**Look at your child
when talking about
the pictures and
words in the book**

**Ask (some)
questions about
the story + offer
comments on
the story or
pictures**

**Talk about
rhyming
words**

**Have fun 'playing'
with the speech
sounds in words**

**Define new
words in a
story**

**Use the story pictures to
engage in conversation
about the child's
life...don't just stick to
reading the story**

**Tired of the books you have at home?
Libraries are open for borrowing**



Who can you talk to if you are worried about your child's development?

Your local General Practitioner (GP)

Your local Community Health Centre – for Speech, Occupational or Physiotherapy advice, assessment or therapy

A private allied health clinician – speech pathologist, occupational therapist or physio therapist.

Your local Child and Family Health Nurse

Your early education provider

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How can you access allied health services?

For children up until school entry who don't have access to government funding (e.g. NDIS), **contact your local Community Health Centre**

All children can access private allied health services.

All children who are Medicare eligible can get a **Chronic Disease Management Plan and/or a Better Access to Mental Health Care Plan from the GP**. This helps fund **private allied health services**



Children under 7 with difficulties in more than one developmental area can apply for funding from the NDIS through our local coordinator – EACH.

Parents and carers can refer their child to any of these services without a referral, recommendation or diagnosis.



Resources

Handy hints

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WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT SCREEN TIME?

'Screen time' includes watching TV, watching or playing games on tablets or on phones

Aim to balance screen time with playing games together, heading outside and talking together.

Find out more information about screen time and media for kids here:



Our children learn best by talking, playing and exploring their world with their family and friends.

LEARN, PLAY AND GROW TOGETHER



WHERE CAN I TAKE MY CHILD FOR EARLY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES?

Join a play group near you! Find one at Playgroup Australia

Head to your local park and check out the playground!

Visit your local library and connect with your librarian!

Look for an early education centre using the Starting Blocks website - or by talking to your friends and family!

LEARN, PLAY AND GROW TOGETHER



WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ABOUT PARENTING?

Understanding how our children grow and what we can do to support them can be tricky.

Look for more information on child tips/tricks at Korrtane or on the Raising Children Network

Check out the Resourcing Parents website to find local support services

Sharing tips, tricks and experiences with others is a wonderful way to learn more about parenting.

LEARN, PLAY AND GROW TOGETHER



WHO CAN I TALK TO ABOUT MY CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT?

Chat with your GP or Child and Family Health Nurse. Use the Love Talk, sing, play or Daddy Love app to find out more about development

Worried about your child's communication development? You can contact your local Community Health Centre or local private speech pathologist to chat.

Concerned about your child's fine motor, play or self-care skills? You can call your local Community Health Centre or private occupational therapist to chat.

Your child's first 2000 days shape their growth and development. Getting advice or support early is key!

LEARN, PLAY AND GROW TOGETHER

What can you do today to help your child's communication skills?



Share a book together



Explore a local park - talk about
what you see and do!



Complete the OZI-SF/ERLI to find
out more about your child's skills.



Contact a local provider for
support if you are worried.

Thanks to our presenters and partners

Paint the Town REaD

Barbie Bates

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Abbey Hoppitt

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Fiona Devine

Kristen Stevens

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THANK YOU



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