



NEWCASTLE

Speech
Pathology



THE ULTIMATE TODDLER SPEECH AND COMMUNICATION GUIDE

*5-Point Checklist to ensure your
child's communication development is
on track*

@newcastlespeechpathology

IS MY CHILD A LATE TALKER?

A Late Talker is a toddler who, by the age of two, uses less than 50 words or only a small number of word combinations to communicate.

SHOULD I BE WORRIED IF MY CHILD ISN'T TALKING?

Yes. If your child has reached the age of two and doesn't say more than 50 words, it's important that we give them the support they need to catch up to their peers. A child's ability to communicate and understand in the first few years of life will impact their readiness for school and their ability to learn and make friends.

Let's take a look at what we can expect from our 2-year-olds and find out if your child's communication skills are on track.



Here is a checklist of what a typical 2-year-old can do.

Is your child meeting these milestones?

WHAT CAN MY 2-YEAR-OLD DO?

1. SPEECH

The sounds your child is making and how they are putting them together to make words

- Use a lot of consonant sounds, including m,n,p,b,k,g,h,w,t,d
- Make a full range of vowels
- Attempt to say longer words

Note: speech may be hard for unfamiliar listeners to understand. It's normal for toddlers to make some error patterns, such as dropping the last sound off a word, shortening words by dropping a syllable, or changing a sound so it is similar to another sound in the word - 'cat' -> 'tat'.

2. VOCABULARY

The words your child understands and uses and how they store them

- Say 50+ different words
- Sort objects into categories, e.g. putting blocks with other blocks
- Use social words such as 'bye', 'please', 'thank you'

3. RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE OR COMPREHENSION

How your child understands and responds to language

- Follow 2-step instructions, e.g. 'get your nappy and bring it to me', 'give me the ball and the car'
- Understand action words
- Point to four action words in pictures, e.g. Which one is jumping?
- Point to people and objects in pictures when they are named, e.g. Where's ___?
- Point to several body parts
- Understand the difference between 'in' and 'on', 'one' and 'many'
- Understand the concept of size, e.g. 'big' and 'little'
- Understand the word 'another'

4. EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE

The way your child expresses themselves through words and sentences. It includes how they use language and gestures to think and convey their thoughts, feelings and ideas.

- Combine two or more words together to make a short phrase, e.g. 'mummy go', 'bye teddy', 'no drink'
- Use their own name when talking about themselves
- Use their tone of voice to ask a question
- Say 'no'
- Use pronouns like 'mine', 'my' and 'you'
- Add 'ing' to the end of verbs, e.g. 'crying'
- Use location words such as 'up', 'down', 'in', 'on', 'under'

5. PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

How they understand and interpret sounds, which is a foundation for later literacy

- Show an awareness of the concept of 'reading' and 'writing'
- Pretend to write
- Pretend to read books
- Recognise specific books by their covers
- Listen to stories for longer periods
- Hold a book correctly



Bonus

PLAY AND COGNITIVE SKILLS

These provide communication opportunities and help your child to develop language for thinking, reasoning and problem-solving

- Use two toys together in pretend play
- Imitate housework, e.g. vacuuming
- Match sounds to pictures of animals
- Pretend to talk on the phone
- Stack and assemble toys
- Confidently use sounds or words to take a turn in a 'conversation'
- Talk to themselves when playing

If your child is not meeting these early communication milestones, now is the right time to see a speech pathologist. It is always best to seek help early and never take a 'wait and see' approach.

Speech pathologists are experts in the field of communication. We can assess your child's communication skills and give you advice and specific strategies you need to encourage your child's development.



WE'RE HERE TO HELP

At Newcastle Speech Pathology, we're on a mission to support parents to help their children unlock their full potential.

We're passionate about getting kids communicating early because we know that clear communication unlocks opportunities in life.

Whether it's in school, at work, or in the community, everyone deserves to be heard and understood.

We provide a full range of speech pathology services to our clients and their families. Based in Newcastle, New South Wales, we offer in-clinic and online appointments.

Contact us today to discuss your child's communication skills and find out how we can support you in unlocking their potential!

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