



Look Who's NOT Talking!

Communication skills are critical to your child's future success in school and in life. Research tells us that children who enter school with delayed speech and language skills are much more likely to struggle with learning to read. We know that the younger we start with speech and language intervention the more difference we can make.

Research indicates that approximately 40-50% of children who are late to talk (and who have typical skills in other areas) do not catch up on their own.* Late talkers who use few or no gestures seem to be at greater risk for a language delay that does not resolve itself. Even when late talkers appear to catch up to other children their age, they are still at greater risk for difficulties with reading. If you are concerned about your toddler's language development, don't listen to people who tell you to "wait and see". Consult a speech language pathologist. The earlier a child receives help, the easier it is to catch up, and the better the prognosis.

(* Lauren Lowry: [Fact or Fiction? The Top 10 Assumptions about Early Speech and Language Development](#))

12 Month Checklist

- Child uses 3 to 5 different words
- Child can follow simple instructions; i.e., "Sit down", "Don't touch"
- Child understands "no," and simple requests "Where is your ball?"
- Child imitates sounds ("Whee!", "uh-oh!") and actions (wave, head shake)
- Gets attention by looking at your eyes while using sounds, pointing, bringing things to show you
- Child tries to sing along with music

18 Month Checklist

- Child can follow simple instructions (i.e. Show me the... Give me the...)
- Child can point to 3 body parts upon request (i.e. eyes, nose, mouth)
- Child understands more words than she can say
- Uses at least 20 words consistently; words do not have to be clear i.e., "Mama" or "ba" for "ball"
- Child can say "No"
- Asks for something by pointing and using sounds or words (points to cookie and says, "num num")

2 Year Checklist

- Uses 100-150 words and combines two to four words in phrases (e.g., "moe tee" for "more cheese," "Truck go down.")
- Child can follow 2-step instructions: "Go find your teddy and show it to Grandma."
- Child can answer questions correctly with "yes" or "no"
- Begins to offer toys to other children and to imitate other children
- Uses many different speech sounds at beginning of words (p,b,m,t,d,n,h,w)
- Asks "What's that?" and "Where?"

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development, call the Language Express Preschool Speech and Language System at 1-888-503-8885. A speech-language assessment can identify your child's strengths and needs, and can help you prepare your child for success in communicating, reading and writing.

**PARENTS OF CHILDREN UNDER 24 MONTHS WILL RECEIVE
A FREE CHILDREN'S BOOK WHEN THEY CALL LANGUAGE EXPRESS!**

For more information, check out our website: www.language-express.ca.