

Tips for Talking: children aged 6 -12 months

At this early stage, children will begin to pay more attention to people and become more interested in what is going on around them.

Children will develop language skills at different rates, but at this stage typically children will be:

- Listening attentively
- Babbling strings of sounds
- Making noises to get your attention and looking at you when doing so



- Smiling at people who are smiling at them
- Looking at you when you speak
- Starting to understand words like 'bye-bye' and 'up'

Here are some simple ideas to encourage children's language development at this stage:

- Use lots of different sounds to interest a child. These can be sounds you make or sounds that things make, such as a rattle or squeaky toy. By drawing a child's attention to sounds in his or her environment, you can help to develop their listening skills and their awareness of things around them.
- Make good use of everyday activities, like getting dressed, feeding or nappy changing. This is a great opportunity to encourage a child to look at you and make good eye contact. It helps to establish their attention and basic communication skills.
- Talk about and comment on everyday activities that your child is involved in, like getting dressed, eating and bathing. These are useful ways to encourage their language.
- Copy the child's babbling sounds. This is a very good way to show how we take turns in language and will often encourage children to make even more sounds.
- Use actions and gestures with words, for example, waving as you say 'bye-bye' or pointing to or picking up their cup as you say 'drink'. The more that you use gestures and actions with words, the easier it is for them to relate what they see and do with the language that they hear.

If you have concerns about your child's speech or language at this stage, let your Health Visitor know. She can make an appointment with a Speech and Language Therapist for you.



Talking Point is run by



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working with



and



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