

# Ages and Stages 6 MONTHS

Your baby watches your face when you talk to them.

They play with sounds – you'll hear noises like 'bababa'.

They are starting to understand when you say things as you do them like 'bye-bye' or 'up'.

They love games like when you hide your face and then say 'boo!'



## TOP TIP

TALK TO YOUR BABY  
When doing things  
together, changing  
nappies, feeding or  
going out.

*changing*  
the conversation  
about language

# Ages and Stages 18 MONTHS

Your toddler will be starting to use more and more words – around 20 of them. Although they may not sound quite right, you know what they mean.

They can find things you ask for, like pictures in a book or toys in the room

They'll be using lots of babble and words and they may 'talk' when they are playing.

They are starting to pretend as they play with things – like holding a brick to their ear and pretending it's a phone or drinking out of a toy cup.



## TOP TIP

HELP YOUR TODDLER LEARN NEW WORDS BY USING LOTS OF WORDS YOURSELF. USE THE RIGHT NAMES FOR THINGS AROUND THEM AND TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

*changing*  
the conversation  
about language

# Ages and Stages 1 Year

Your baby will 'chat' to you and start to use some words anytime now.

Their new words might not sound like adult words, but you'll know what they mean.

They can do simple things if you ask them and gesture, like 'give it to Mummy'.

They love being with you, watching what you do, and you can take turns making noises to each other.



## TOP TIP

HELP YOUR baby TO LISTEN BY turning OFF the TV and radio when you talk and play with them.

*changing*  
the conversation  
about language

# AGES and STAGES 2 YEARS

Children understand longer sentences like 'your shoes are upstairs'.

They are starting to use lots of single words – 50 or more.

They are starting to put some words together to make sentences, like 'teddy gone' or 'Daddy's ball'.

They can play alongside other children. They might be starting to share, but it's quite hard for them.



## TOP TIP

HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN NEW WORDS AND SENTENCES BY REPEATING WHAT THEY SAY AND ADDING ON. IF THEY SAY 'CAT' YOU CAN SAY 'YES, THE CAT'S SLEEPING'.

*changing*  
the conversation  
about language

# Ages and Stages 3 Years

Children are using longer sentences like, 'I'm gonna Nana's' or 'I'm gonna get a toy car'.

Children may stumble over their words and repeat themselves.

They are beginning to understand question words like 'who?', 'what?' and 'where?'

They enjoy playing games with other children and know all about taking turns.



## TOP TIP

Give your child time to talk to you. If you are busy, say so and go back to them when you have more time to listen and join in with them.

*changing*  
the conversation  
about language

# AGES AND STAGES 4 YEARS

What your child says can be understood even by people who don't know them well, but they might still find some sounds hard to make, like 'l', 'y' 'sh' and 'ch'.

Children ask lots of questions, especially 'why...?'

They are beginning to understand colour, number and time words like 'show me three fingers', 'we are going tomorrow'.

They can use their words to tell you about how they are feeling and about their ideas.



## TOP TIP

COMMENT ON WHAT YOUR CHILD IS DOING RATHER THAN ASKING THEM LOTS OF QUESTIONS. NO ONE LIKES TO FEEL THEY ARE BEING TESTED.

*changing*  
the conversation  
about language

# AGES AND STAGES

## 5 YEARS

Children can stop what they are doing and listen to you when you say their name.

They understand long sentences with more information, like 'find me the orange and black pens'.

They get most of the sounds in words right, although longer words like 'computer' may still be a bit hard.

They can use language in lots of different ways like to talk about their feelings, to persuade others or to disagree.



### TOP TIP

LOOK AT STORY BOOKS TOGETHER AND TALK ABOUT THE PICTURES. READING STORIES WITH YOUR CHILD HELPS THEM TO LEARN NEW WORDS.

*changing*  
the conversation  
about language