

## Communication development guide for parents with small children

- **0-4 months** - appears startled by loud noises and settled by mother's voice.
- **4-6 months** - eyes move towards sounds and facial expressions change as a response to mother's voice.
- **5-6 months** - begins to make noises and appears to be communicating.
- **6-9 months** - responds when name called and turns head towards sound.
- **9-12 months** - can copy speech eg. 'mum' & 'dad'.
- **12-18 months** - can say basic words and understand instructions.
- **over 18 months** - vocabulary should increase reasonably quickly.

### Your child should be able to do the following:

#### By age 1 year:

- Respond to and recognise familiar sounds such as the telephone ringing, the vacuum cleaner or the car in the driveway
- Understand simple commands such as 'no'
- Recognise their own name
- Understand the names of familiar objects and people
- Say 'dad' and 'mum'
- Enjoy songs, music and books

#### By age 2 years:

- Say names of simple body parts such as nose or tummy
- Listen to stories and say the names of pictures, understand simple sentences such as 'where is your shoe?'
- Use more than fifty words such as 'no', 'gone', 'mine' and 'teddy'
- Talk to themselves or their toys during play
- Sing simple songs, such as 'twinkle, twinkle, little star' and 'baa, baa, black sheep'
- Use some pronouns instead of names such as 'he' and 'it'
- Try simple sentences such as 'milk all gone'

#### By age 3 years:

- Understand how objects are used - eg a crayon is something you draw with
- Recognise their own needs, such as hunger
- Follow directions
- Use three to four word sentences
- Begin using grammar
- Enjoy telling stories and asking questions
- Have favourite books and television programs
- Be understood by familiar adults

**By age 4 years:**

- Understand shape and colour names
- Understand some 'time' words such as 'lunch time' and 'today'
- Ask who, what and why questions
- Use lots of words, about 900, usually in four to five word sentences
- Use correct grammar with occasional mistakes, such as 'I falled down'
- Use language when playing with other children
- Speak clearly enough to be understood by most people

**By age 5 years:**

- Understand opposites, such as high and low, wet and dry, big and little
- Use sentences of about six words with correct grammar
- Talk about events which are happening, have happened or might happen
- Explain why something happens, such as 'mum's car stopped because the petrol ran out'
- Explain the function of objects
- Follow three directions, eg. 'stand up, get your shoes on and wait by the door'
- Say how they feel and tell you their ideas
- Become interested in writing, numbers and reading things
- Speak clearly enough to be understood by anyone

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**Attune Hearing – 1800 195 155**