



# I'm 18 months old and using lots of words!

Early Years Speech, Language and Communication Development



## Your baby should be starting to:

- understand simple questions and instructions, including single words and some two word phrases
- recognise and point to familiar pictures or objects when asked
- still babble, but use between 6 and 20 words (these won't always be clear)
- copy adult gestures and words
- change tone, pitch and volume of voice when talking
- pretend to use real life things when playing; for example making tea; and
- show lots of interest in their world and point things out to mum and dad.

*From the ICAN Stages of Speech  
and Language Development*

**No matter how old I am – one of the best ways to help my speech and language development is to have some quiet time with me so we can talk, sing songs or look at books.**

**It is always best to make sure that the TV and music are switched off when we play.**

# Helpful hints for 18 months-2 years

Let me choose a toy or book so we can talk about things that interest me.

I don't need a dummy when I am awake now so please don't offer me one.

Get face-to-face down to my level. Then I can look right at you when I'm talking.



Use everyday routines, like bath time, to give me new words. Repeating words helps me learn them.

I love to sing songs and rhymes, especially ones with actions.

If I say a word, add a bit more on. If I say "juice", you say "More juice". This will help me learn new words.

Please remember that all children develop speech and language at different times and different speeds, so it can be perfectly ok for your child not to be showing all the behaviours in this leaflet.

If you have any questions or any concerns about your child's speech, language or communication, please contact your Health Visitor.

This leaflet has been developed in partnership between Sure Start Children's Centres and the Children's Integrated Therapy and Equipment Service, with thanks to the Parents' Forum.

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