Asking for help

Children develop speech, language and Communication skills at different rates. Some develop quickly, while others may take longer.

Talk to your child's nursery, preschool, childminder, Health Visitor or GP if you are concerned about your child's speech and language development. They will be able to provide you with information about how to support your child's development and help you to access any support your child might need.

Things to look out for

Ask for advice if your 3.5 year-old;

- is struggling to turn ideas into sentences
- is using language that is jumbled and difficult to understand
- Can't follow commands out of context
- does not engage imaginative play
- does not join in stories/songs

Ask for advice if your 4 year-old;

- has difficulties in understanding shape colour, quantity, position
- does not join in a conversation and has difficulty forming friendships
- struggles with organising sentences correctly
- has unclear speech

Development checks

The health visitor will carry out a number of checks on your child between 0-5 using Ages & Stages and you can speak with them about any concerns you may have at this time. You can also talk to your Health Visitor, child minder, nursery key worker or GP if you are concerned about your child's speech and language development. The WellComm language screen may be used to assess your child's communication. You can ask your child care setting or health visitor about the WellComm activities that you can do at home to support your child's speech, language and communication development.

Find out more

Stockport family information hub- Stockport SEND local offer
stockport.fsd.org.uk

Start well Stockport
stockport.gov.uk/start-well

Small talk -ways to make a difference
small-talk.org.uk

ICAN- ages and stages of typical speech and language development
ican.org.uk

What to expect and when- a guide to your child's development
Foundationyears.org

BBC Tiny Happy People- tips and activities
www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people

Hungry little minds- simple fun activities
hungrylittleminds.campaign.gov.uk

Bookstart – ideas for sharing books, stories and rhymes
https://www.booktrust.org.uk

"Every seemingly small interaction between a parent and a child is a great opportunity to fill that child's world with words"

Jonathan Douglas, Director of the National Literacy Trust

Facebook pages to follow for advice and tips

- Start Well Stockport
- I CAN communication charity
- BBC Tiny Happy People
- Stockport NHS FT Early Years Speech and Language Therapy Service

Pathways to Talking

Start Well Stockport

Speech Language and communication development

A family's guide



Preschool

STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Why is this important?

Speech, language and communication is a vital part of your child's development. Being able to communicate means they can make relationships, tell you what they need, talk about their ideas and experiences, play with their friends and learn.

Helping build your child's speech, language and communication skills is one of the most important things you can do as a parent. The best way to do this is to simply chat, play and read with your child!

Chat

Babies and children love the sound of human voices. All babies start babbling from an early age – it's their way of communicating with you. Encouraging this helps them learn to speak as they get older.

Play

You are your baby's first play mate. Simple games help your baby learn to use objects and start to speak. Playing helps them get stronger, become more coordinated and learn new things.

Read

Right from birth, babies love hearing their parents' voices as they share a story. As they grow, they will start to enjoy the pictures and bright colours. Reading with toddlers will help them talk earlier and will help them do better at school.

Talk to me about what I am doing rather than asking me lots of questions. I will talk more when you do this.

Reading stories together helps me to learn new words and ideas. I love it when we talk about the story as we turn the pages. Let me see the pictures too!

How 3-4-year olds are learning to communicate

Children understand and say lots of words and sentences now. You can see them using their talking to meet new friends or to work out problems. They talk to find out new information by asking lots of questions. A massive amount of learning happens in this time.

It takes a lot of skills to be able to communicate!

These include....



Some simple things you can do with your 3-4-year-old

- ☺ Join children in pretend play. Play alongside them, let them take the lead. Listen and talk about what they are saying and doing rather than asking lots of questions.
- ☺ Give longer instructions for them to follow.
- ☺ Play around with words and sounds, E.g. think of words that begin with the same sound.
- ☺ Get the child to think of words that belong to the same category, for example as many different animals as they can think of.
- ☺ Make up a story together think of a character, where does he live, where did he go today, what did he do, are there any mishaps, and what happens in the end.
- ☺ Sing songs, share stories and say nursery rhymes.
- ☺ Place familiar objects in a box. Have your child take one out and tell you its name and how to use it. "This is my ball. I bounce it. I play with it."

I love it when we play, sing and look at books together.
We can play with anything it doesn't have to be toys. We can make funny faces together or play with a cardboard box.

How to help your child if English is an additional language

Lots of children grow up in a family where more than one language is spoken. This can be an advantage to children in their learning. Knowing another language will help the development of their English.

Use the language you know best when you talk to me at home. This will help my brain to grow and I will learn English quickly if I already know the words in another language.