

Speech language and communication development

In the first months of your baby's life, their brain is making lots of new connections. Smiling, chatting, cuddling and playing helps build these connections developing skills for later life.

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 pregnancy, babies love hearing their parents' voices. Read to them often and as they grow, they will start to enjoy the pictures and bright colours.

English as 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. Knowing another language will help the development of their English.

Talk to your bump in the language that you feel most comfortable with. This will help it to feel more natural.

- 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.

Find out more

Stockport family information hub
stockport.fsd.org.uk

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

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

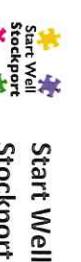
What to expect and when- a guide to your child's development
foundationyears.org

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

“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



BBC Tiny Happy People



Better Births in Stockport and the High peak

Contacts

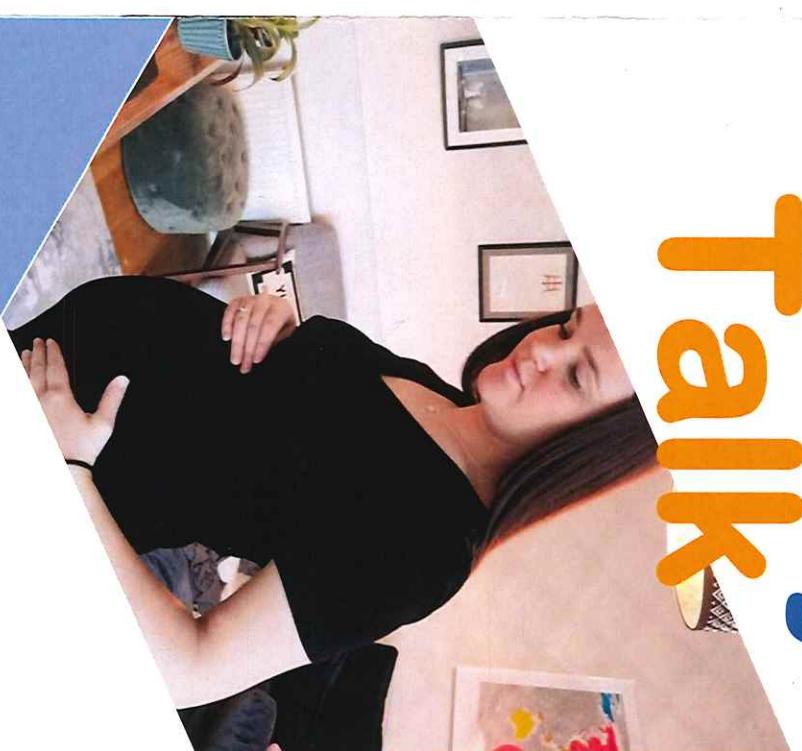
Stepping hill triage/Birth Centre
0161 419 5551 /5285

All Community Midwives have a mobile number for contact
Stockport Health visiting & school nursing advice line
0161 835 6789

Pathways to Talking



Tummy Talk



A family guide to bonding with your bump



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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Why is tummy talk important?

I love to listen to your voice when you talk or sing to me and I even like to listen to your favourite music.

Talking to your bump helps you to connect with your baby and make a bond with them before they are born.

Feeling your baby move and kick in response to your voice and your touch can be really rewarding. It is also a great way for your partner and other family members to connect with baby.

Talking to your baby during pregnancy helps with their social and emotional development, as well as their language skills and memory.

From womb to world

Recognising voices can reduce stress and help your baby to settle when they are born and are getting used to being in life outside of you.

What does your baby hear and feel?

Your babies' brain is developing very quickly during pregnancy.

Their hearing starts to develop from about 16 weeks into pregnancy. They pick up on vibrations and the ups and downs of voices outside the womb.

By 6 months of pregnancy, your baby can hear music and voices, recognise familiar voices, learn and remember. Your baby will hear and feel the vibrations of your voice every time you speak to anyone.

Responding to your baby's kicks is great way to have a two-way communication before they are born. Rub your bump when your baby moves, and you may find that they kick back at you.

Spending a few minutes calmly talking or singing to your bump is a great way to relax.

Things to notice

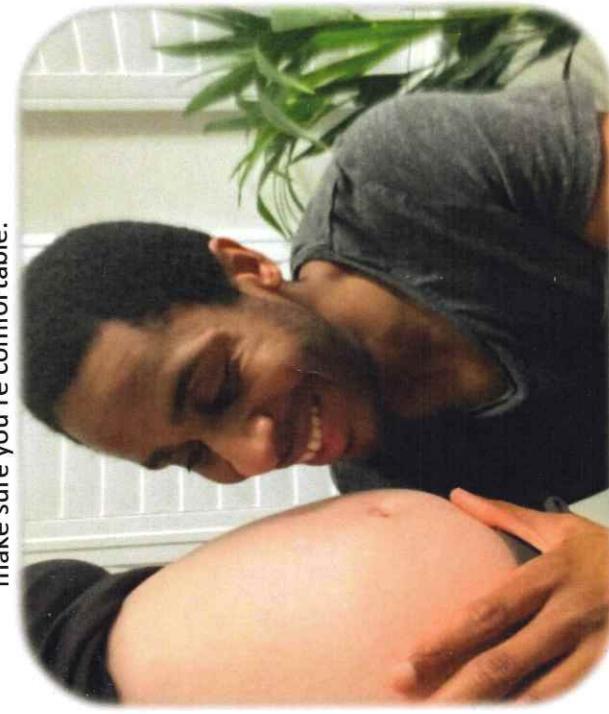
Every baby is different, and their character develops before they are born. Get to know your baby

Some simple tips

- ⌚ Do they have a pattern of movements?
 - ⌚ Do they react to certain food or drinks?
 - ⌚ Do they move more, or less when you talk?
 - ⌚ Do they respond to certain music?
- Don't forget, if you are worried about your baby's movements, call your midwife or maternity unit straight away.

What to expect after birth

- ✓ When your baby is born, wherever possible, skin to skin contact will be offered. This helps to regulate temperature and heart rate and helps your baby adjust to life outside the womb.
- ✓ All babies have their hearing tested soon after birth. This will usually take place before discharge if you deliver in hospital.
- Alternatively you may be given an appointment to attend for this in the community within the first few weeks after birth.
- ✓ During the first few weeks your baby will continue to become more alert
- ✓ Around 9 months you will have an appointment with your health visitor to check their development.



Finding out early about any hearing loss can give babies a better chance of developing language, speech, and communication skills.

Asking for help

If you're worried or unsure about talking to your baby, ask friends and family what they did when they were pregnant. You can ask your midwife and health visitor for advice or talk to other parents-to-be at antenatal classes.

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

ican.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 charity

BBC Tiny Happy People

Stockport NHS FT

Speech and Language Therapy Service

NHS
Stockport

Foundation Trust

early years
Stockport

Pathways to Talking



Speech Language and communication development

A family's guide



Preschool



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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.

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.

Asking for help

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

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 2-year-old is;

- Not following simple instructions
- Not playing constructively
- Pointing or showing what they want rather than saying it.
- only say single words instead of joining words together into short sentences.
- relying on being shown what to do rather than being told.
- You cannot understand most of what they say.

Development checks

In Stockport, every child is entitled to a development check at 9months and 2 years old.

This is an opportunity to have a conversation with a health professional about your child's speech language and communication development. You will be asked to complete an ASQ questionnaire. They may also carry out a WellComm language screen.

If your child attends a Stockport childminder, preschool or nursery they will also have a 2-year progress check and the setting may also use the WellComm language screen to assess your child's communication. You can ask them about the WellComm activities that you can do at home to support your child's speech, language and communication development.

Find out more

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I CAN communication charity

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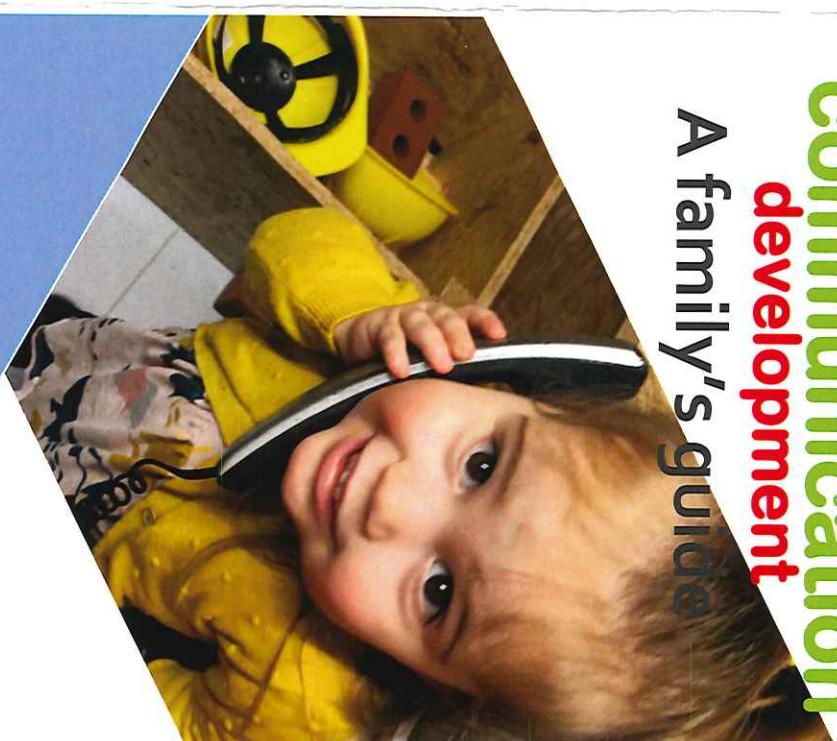
early years Stockport

Pathways to Talking



Speech Language and communication development

A family's guide



2-year olds

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.

Some simple things you can do with your 2-year-old

How 2-year olds are learning to communicate

Your 2-year olds language skills are growing rapidly! They will be putting more words together to create simple sentences and start to answer simple questions. They will be using their imagination in pretend play and using lots of new words and gestures.

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

These include....

- ☺ Toys and books that make a noise will help your child's listening skills.
- ☺ Enjoy singing nursery rhymes and songs together
- ☺ Sharing daily jobs gives a chance to talk about objects and actions
- ☺ Adding words to children's sentences can show them how words fit together. For example, if a child says, 'dolly hair' you can say 'brush dolly's hair'
- ☺ If your child is trying to say a word but gets it wrong, say the word properly.
- ☺ Increase your child's vocabulary by giving them choices, e.g., "Do you want an apple or a banana?"



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.

Asking for help

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Things to look out for

Ask for advice if, when your baby is 6 months

- They are not startled by loud noises.
- They do not engage in eye contact when spoken to.
- They do not smile back at someone smiling at them.
- They do not watch a speaker's face with interest.
- does not respond to noises by 9 months.
- does not point to things they are interested in by one year.

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Start well Stockport

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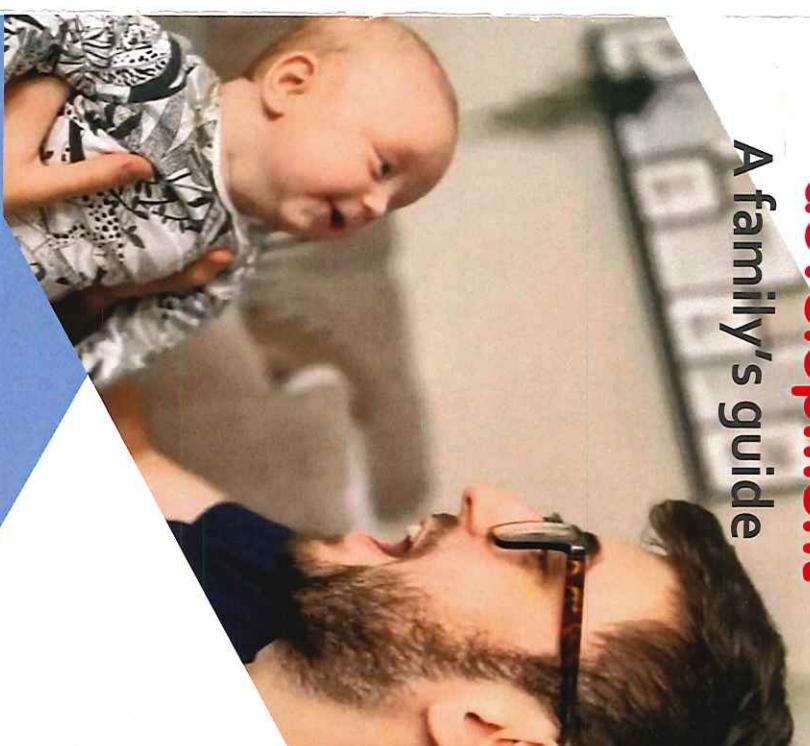
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Babies



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Cuddle me close so I can see your face and talk to me as soon as I am born.

Some simple things you can do with your baby

- ☺ Hold your baby close and look at them as you talk to them.
- ☺ Chat about what you're doing as you feed, change and bathe them.
- ☺ Sing to your baby this helps them tune in to the rhythm of language.
- ☺ Repeat the sounds your baby makes back to them.
- ☺ Talk in a sing-song voice – this helps to keep your baby's attention.
- ☺ Name and point to things you can both see.
- ☺ Start looking at books with your baby – you do not have to read the words on the page, just talk about what you can see.
- ☺ Play games like "peek-a-boo" and "round and round the garden"

I love to listen to your voice when you talk or sing to me and I even like to listen to your favourite music.

How babies learn to communicate

In the first months of your baby's life, their brain is making lots of new connections. Smiling, chatting, cuddling and playing helps build these connections developing skills for later life.

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

These include:

- I might not be able to talk yet, but I will respond in my own way. I might look hard at your face, move my mouth when you talk or even wave my arms and legs. These all mean I am bonding with you.
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