



# I'm 2 and a half and I'm chattering away!

Early Years Speech, Language and Communication Development



# Your child should be starting to:

- listen with lots of interest, but get easily distracted
- learn new words everyday
- understand longer instructions of up to two key words; for example “Get a *biscuit* and your *cup*”
- understand concepts like ‘in’ and ‘under’, and simple ‘who’ and ‘what’ questions
- hold a conversation, but jump from topic to topic quickly
- use two word and even three word sentences; for example “Eat mummy cake”; and
- chat to themselves as they play.

*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 2½-3 years

I love looking at books. Sometimes I might just want to look at the pictures with you and miss pages out. This is fine – just talk about what I am interested in!

Because my language is developing fast, I might start to stumble on words. This is ok, just give me lots of time to talk.

Unfamiliar adults may not understand me all the time yet and I might get frustrated. Don't worry – just keep repeating the words back correctly for me.



Talk to me in two and three word sentences. This will help me pick out the words I know.

Keep adding words to what I say. So if I said, "Mummy drink", you could interpret what I mean and say *"Want mummy's drink?"*.

I still have difficulty switching my attention from my toys to your voice. Call my name before talking to me to help me pay attention to you.

**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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### **East Sussex County Council**

County Hall

St Anne's Crescent

Lewes BN7 1UE

Phone: 0345 60 80 190

Fax: 01273 481261

Website: [eastsussex.gov.uk/contactus](http://eastsussex.gov.uk/contactus)

GK 11/12 0120 2011-12 681



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