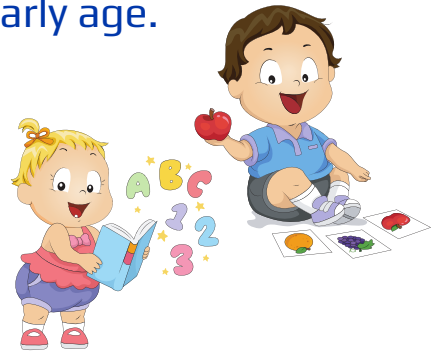


Language Disorder (with a known cause)

Babies typically begin to watch, listen, use facial expressions and then start babbling with their parent/caregiver from an early age.

Between the ages of 2 - 4 yrs, children typically develop an understanding of 1/2/3/4+ word instructions, can respond to questions and know/use a vocabulary of 500 - 2000+ words. They can join words together to make short sentences.



For some children, this takes a bit longer but, by the age of 5yrs, they have mostly caught up. Sometimes though, there may be a larger gap between them and their peers and they might be stuck at an early stage of communication for longer e.g. pre-verbal. This can often be linked to being Neuro-Divergent (developing in a different way from others) due to Autism, Downs Syndrome, Hearing Impairment, Learning Disability and more. These children may have a diagnosis of Language Disorder associated with (insert condition here.) They benefit from specialist Speech and Language Therapy support. Here are some key characteristics to look out for:

- ▶ Limited vocabulary or being able to join words together. More understanding of words than use of words.
- ▶ Struggling to follow instructions or answer questions. Difficulties with attention and listening.
- ▶ Sentences are missing grammatical words.

If you are concerned about your child's language development, please get in contact with your local NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service or talk to their school/nursery setting/Health Visitor.