

If a child does not appear to be reaching the milestones below, please contact River Dart Speech Therapy for an informal chat on 07981267829 or email us at: [contact@riverdartspeechtherapy.co.uk](mailto:contact@riverdartspeechtherapy.co.uk).

We may recommend an assessment in the area of speech and/or language. Remember, early intervention is the key to successful therapy.

## Communication Milestones

Age	Attention & Listening	Understanding	Talking	Speech Sounds	Play
18 -24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concentrate on activities for longer, such as playing with a toy they like.</li> <li>Sit and listen to simple stories with pictures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand between 200 and 500 words.</li> <li>Understand more simple questions and instructions. For example, 'where is your shoe?' and 'show me your nose'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Copy sounds and words a lot.</li> <li>Use 50 or more single words. These will also become more recognisable to others.</li> <li>Start to put short sentences together with 2-3 words, such as 'more juice' or 'bye nanny'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a more limited number of sounds in their words than adults – often these sounds are p, b, t, d, m and w.</li> <li>May miss the ends off words</li> <li>Can usually be understood about half of the time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enjoy pretend play with their toys, such as feeding dolly.</li> </ul>
2 - 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen to and remember simple stories with pictures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand longer I instructions, such as 'make teddy jump' or 'where's mum-my's coat?'.</li> <li>Understand simple 'who', 'what' and 'where' questions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use action words such as 'run' and 'fall' as well as words for the names of things.</li> <li>Start to use simple plurals by adding 's', for example 'shoes' or 'cars'.</li> <li>Use up to 300 words.</li> <li>Put 4 or 5 words together to make short sentences, such as 'want more juice' or 'he took my ball'.</li> <li>Ask lots of questions. They will want to find out the name of things and learn new words.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a wider range of speech sounds.</li> <li>May shorten longer words, such as saying 'nana' instead of 'banana'.</li> <li>Often have problems saying more difficult sounds like sh, ch, th and r.</li> <li>People that know them can mostly understand them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Now play more with other children and share things.</li> </ul>
3 – 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Listen to longer stories and answer questions about a storybook they have just read.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand and often use colour, number and time related words, for example, 'red' car, 'three' fingers and 'yesterday / tomorrow'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start to be able to answer questions about 'why' something has happened, although this still might be at quite a basic level.</li> <li>Use longer sentences and link sentences together.</li> <li>Describe events that have already happened, even if their sentences aren't exactly like adults' e.g. 'we went park'.</li> <li>Ask many questions using words like 'what' 'where' and 'why'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have difficulties with a small number of sounds – for example r, w, l, f, th, sh, ch and j.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enjoy make-believe play.</li> <li>Start to like simple jokes even if they don't understand them.</li> <li>Start to be able to plan games with others.</li> </ul>