



# When should my child start talking?

From the moment they enter the world, babies start communicating. Every parent can understand the message of 'I'm hungry / tired / hurt' based on the sound of their child's cry. Before a young child can begin to use words, they need to develop a range of skills such as:

- Initiating interactions, taking turns, making eye contact.
- Paying attention to a speaker, listening and focusing for an extended period of time.
- Playing. This is our children's job and main occupation, for good reason! It is how they learn language, problem solving skills etc.
- Understanding what you are saying to them.
- Imitating sounds and actions.

## So, How Many Words Should My Child Be Saying?

- By 12-18 months your child should know and be able to use between 50-100 words
- By 18-24 months, your child should have about 200-300 words in their vocabulary and be using 2 word phrases for example, "mummy shoe" "daddy go" "more book"

**Children can become frustrated when they are not understood. It is easy for them to become discouraged and stop initiating conversation. If your child does not meet the milestones above or is becoming frustrated with communication, it is important to speak with a Speech Pathologist. Call us today for your initial consultation to discuss your child's needs.**

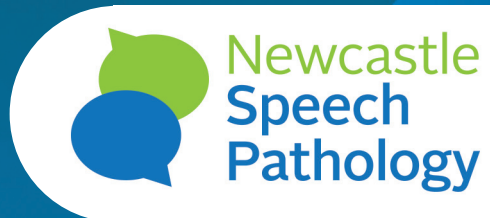
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