

## FACT SHEET



**Babies learn to talk by listening to voices and sounds – and babies develop at different rates.** It is often hard to detect if your infant or toddler has a speech or language problem. Trust your instincts. If you suspect a problem talk to your family doctor or see a Speech-Language Pathologist. If a speech or language problem goes unnoticed the child may face life-long difficulties. Even children under the age of two can be helped with speech and language development.

### Milestones for Development:

- **Up to 3 Months**
  - ✓ Makes lots of noises (eg. coos and gurgles)
  - ✓ Reacts to loud noises or new sounds
  - ✓ Soothed by calm gentle voices
- **6 Months**
  - ✓ Watches your face and makes noise when you talk
  - ✓ Coos and squeals for attention
  - ✓ Cries differently when hungry
- **12 Months**
  - ✓ Understands their own name and other common words when used with gestures like “bye-bye”
  - ✓ Says sounds like “ba ba, na na, ma ma”
  - ✓ Sings along, laughs or imitates others
- **18 Months**
  - ✓ Understands simple questions like “where is your nose”
  - ✓ Makes gestures or asks for “more” or “again”
  - ✓ Babbles, sounding like sentences
- **2 Years**
  - ✓ Understands more words than he/she can say
  - ✓ Uses two-word sentences like “what’s that”
  - ✓ Understands simple directions like “get your coat”
- **2-3 Years**
  - ✓ Asks questions and uses short sentences
  - ✓ Uses 200 or more words
  - ✓ Listens to stories and answers simple questions



### Talking Tips

- Ensure face-to-face communication when your child is talking
- Praise your child’s efforts to communicate
- Describe what your child is doing, feeling and learning
- Read colourful picture books
- Recite nursery rhymes
- Sing songs, use short words
- Talk to your baby while dressing
- Talk simply and clearly

**Early detection is vital! If you suspect a problem consult your yellow pages or visit our website to find a speech-language pathologist or audiologist near you.**

[www.caslpa.ca](http://www.caslpa.ca)