

Introduction for parents about Language Checkers

We would like you to complete a language checker of your child's language development in their home language to give you a better understanding of how your child becomes a communicator.

Completing the language checkers will help you understand what is expected at different ages and stages of development and what will happen next.

There are language checkers for the different age groups which overlap because children develop at different rates.

The language checkers are set out as simple questions with **Yes/No** boxes and split into the four main areas that are part of language development.

We can support you with some ideas on how to develop your child's language in all these areas.

Name:
Date completed:
Activity attended:

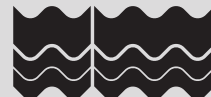
Date of birth:
Age in months:
Location:



Early language checker 0-11 months

How is my baby progressing?

Listening & Attention		Yes	No
1	My baby turns to look towards different sounds that they hear such as a dog barking, a noisy rattle or my voice.		
2	My baby responds when they hear voices nearby.		
3	My baby gets excited or calms down when they hear talking; for example when I talk to them as I approach.		
4	My baby's attention follows from one experience to another easily and quickly; for example from a hanging mobile, to a cat and then to a rattle.		
Understanding			
1 (12 mths)	My baby stops and looks when they hear their own name.		
Talking			
1 (11 mths)	My baby makes babbling sounds when they 'talk' to me like "bababa", "nonono" and "gogo".		
Social Communication			
1	My baby spends time looking at faces and copying expressions that people make such as sticking out their tongue, smiling.		
2	My baby takes time to focus on faces and to playfully interact with other people.		
3 (12 mths)	My baby uses a mixture of body movements, noises and facial expressions to get, and keep people's attention; for example waving arms and gurgling.		



Did you know?

- ❖ Your baby may start to babble different sounds like “dadadad” or “bababa”.
- ❖ Your baby might like exploring making different noises using different volumes, rhythm and pitch (that’s the sing song sounds in our speech).
- ❖ Talking to your baby will really help their developing communication skills.

Your Health Visitor or Children’s Centre can give you more information about how your child’s speech and language is developing and are good to talk to if you have any concerns.

Discussion:

- Registration
- Signposting to groups
- Language development leaflets
- Home learning ideas
- Signposting to Speech and Language Assistant for further support
- Concerns from parent
- Signposting to Health Visitor
- Other information

Completed by:

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Activity attended:

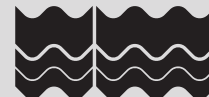
Date of birth:
Age in months:
Location:



Early language checker 8-20 months

How is my baby progressing?

Listening & Attention		Yes	No
1	My baby really concentrates, for a short time, on an object or an activity that they have chosen such as a mirror, banging on a pan or posting objects.		
2	My baby can pay attention to one thing at a time such as a flower; but is easily distracted by noises or people talking.		
3	My baby likes to move to music or a regular beat.		
4	My baby is keen to explore.		
Understanding			
1	My baby responds to familiar things I say; such as <i>“Where’s mummy?”</i> or <i>“Where’s your nose?”</i>		
2	My baby understands the names of familiar objects in context; for example <i>‘daddy’, ‘car’, ‘eyes’, ‘phone’</i> or <i>‘key’</i> .		
Talking			
1 (16 mths)	My baby can say a few single words; for example <i>“car”, “daddy”</i> or <i>“mummy”</i> .		
2	My baby often copies words and sounds; for example <i>“brrrr!”</i> , <i>“moo”</i> or <i>“dog”</i> .		
3	My baby enjoys babbling and trying out new sounds and words to tell me what they want or what they are interested in; for example <i>“teddy”, “more”, “no”</i> or <i>“bye bye”</i> .		
Social Communication			
1	My baby likes being with me or a familiar adult and watches what I do.		
2	My baby looks to where I’m pointing or who I’m waving at.		
3	My baby knows that they can use their voice and actions to get attention.		
4 (18 mths)	My baby uses pointing with looking in order to ask or show me something; for example when they want a toy they can’t reach they look at the toy, point to the toy, look at me, and look between the toy and me again as they are pointing.		



Did you know?

- ❖ Your baby may be starting to speak using a mixture of real words such as “mummy” and made up words; for example “botbot” for bottle.
- ❖ Remember sometimes your baby is pointing because they want to know what things are called not because they want them.
- ❖ Your baby may say words that you easily understand but other adults find difficult.
- ❖ Your baby understands a growing number of words, often many more than they can say.
- ❖ Use actions as well as words to help your baby understand you; for example hold out your hand when saying “Come here” or ‘Pass the pegs’.

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Date completed:
Activity attended:

Date of birth:
Age in months:
Location:



Early language checker 16-26 months

How is my child progressing?

Listening & Attention		Yes	No
1	My child enjoys listening to rhymes and stories with a regular rhythmic pattern such as 'Row, row, row your boat' or 'Going on a Bear Hunt'.		
2	My child likes to join in rhymes with actions or words such as 'Head, shoulders, knees and toes'.		
3	My child can concentrate on an activity so much that they don't seem to hear me when I call them.		
Understanding			
1	My child will go and find things when asked; for example "Give me teddy" or "Here are your shoes?". My child can pick out objects from a group when asked; for example "Where's your trousers?" (from a selection of different clothes).		
Talking			
1 (24 mths)	My child is starting to put two words together; for example "More juice" or "Bye nanny".		
2	My child is starting to use action words and describing words as well as names for things; for example 'go', 'hot', 'sleep' or 'banana'.		
3	My child is starting to ask simple questions such as "What's that?" or "Where going?"		
Social Communication			
1	My child enjoys pretend play with their toys; such as pretending to drive a car or feeding dolly and teddy.		
2	My child looks to me to help them understand how things work and make sense of the world; for example they look for my reaction when trying out new things such as climbing up steps or jumping in a puddle.		

Did you know?

- ❖ Your child will be using a growing number of words and may start to put two words together; for example “*All gone*”, “*Dada gone*” or “*What’s dat?*”
- ❖ Your child will be starting to speak, but may use babyish phrases and sometimes their speech is not clear.
- ❖ Speech sounds will be developing, although your child might sometimes leave out sounds in words; for example “*ca*” for cat, “*do*” for ‘dog’, or add them such as “*tap*” for cap.
- ❖ People can understand what your child says at least half of the time.

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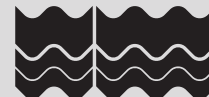
Date of birth:
Age in months:
Location:



Language checker for 22-36 months

How is my child progressing?

Listening & Attention		Yes	No
1 (36 mths)	My child concentrates on one thing but can shift their concentration to something else if I can get their attention. Using their name will help.		
2	My child listens with interest to the noises I make when I read and tell stories.		
3	My child recognises and responds to many familiar sounds such as turning to a knock on the door.		
Understanding			
1 (30 mths)	My child understands action words in pictures; for example <i>“Who’s jumping?”</i> , and they can show this by pointing to the right picture in a book.		
2	My child is able to understand simple questions like <i>“Who?”</i> , <i>“Where?”</i> , <i>“What?”</i> for example <i>“Where’s?”</i> or <i>“What’s that?”</i> .		
3	My child is beginning to understand simple concepts like big/little or hot/cold.		
Talking			
1	My child learns new words very quickly and uses them when talking.		
2	My child uses actions, sometimes with talk; for example they reach for a toy and say <i>‘I have it’</i> or when they are pointing to shoes they say <i>‘Put shoes on now’</i> .		
3	My child asks questions in different ways such as <i>‘What?’</i> , <i>‘Where?’</i> and <i>‘Who?’</i>		
4	My child uses simple sentences; for example <i>‘Mummy gonna work’</i> .		
5	My child is starting to use some word endings such as <i>going</i> , <i>cats</i> .		



Social Communication		Yes	No
1	My child uses talk with others to share what has happened, what they are thinking or how they feel.		
2	My child likes to have conversations with me often jumping from one topic to another.		
3	My child has started to enjoy being with, and talking to, other children as well as adults.		
4	My child is interested in other children's play and joins in.		
5	My child shows concern when another child is hurt or sad and smiles when another child is excited.		

Did you know?

- ❖ Your child's speech will be becoming clearer, and by age three will usually be understood by an unfamiliar adult.
- ❖ Your child sometimes still substitutes sounds; for example '*jampa*' for grandpa and can sometimes leave out last sounds.
- ❖ Your child will probably be using between 50 and 300 words and may be linking four to five words together.

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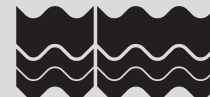
Name: _____ Date of birth: _____
 Date completed: _____ Age in months: _____
 Activity attended: _____ Location: _____



Language checker for 30-50 months

How is my child progressing?

Listening & Attention		Yes	No
1	My child listens to me when we are together, or listens when they are in a small group, especially if they are interested in what is being talked about.		
2	My child listens more carefully to stories and remembers familiar parts.		
3	My child joins in with repeating phrases they know well in stories and rhymes, such as <i>'I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down.'</i> ; and knows what is going to happen.		
4	My child can either listen to me or be doing something (but not both at the same time). They can shift their attention between the two.		
5	My child can follow instructions unless they are totally absorbed in an activity of their own choice.		
Understanding			
1	My child understands the use of objects; for example I might say "What do we use to cut things?"		
2	My child understands words like 'under', 'on top' or 'behind'. When I use words like these they know where to look and what to look at; for example <i>'Put your cup on the table' or 'It's behind you'.</i>		
3	My child is beginning to understand questions that ask <i>"Why?" or "How?"</i> .		
Talking			
1	My child is beginning to use sentences that link their thoughts together by using words like <i>'and'</i> , or <i>'because'</i> ; for example <i>"I want garage cause I want to play cars."</i>		
2	My child can tell me about something that has happened in the right order; for example <i>'went down slide, hurt finger'.</i>		
3	My child can talk to me about what is happening now, what has happened in the past and what might happen next.		
4	My child asks questions about why things happen using words like <i>'Who?', 'What?', 'When?' and 'How?'</i> as well as give answers and explain things; for example when the door bell rings, they ask <i>'Who's that?...I know...it's nana.'</i>		
5	When my child talks about things that have happened or will happen and can use some correct word endings like <i>'play', 'playing', 'will play' or 'played'.</i>		



Social Communication		Yes	No
1	My child is beginning to understand the needs of other children but sometimes needs help to wait for what they want to happen or to share a favourite toy.		
2	My child likes to start conversations with me and other people.		
3	My child is confident to ask me or other people for help; for example at playgroup they will ask for help to put on their coat.		
4	My child likes to talk about what happens at home and when we go out; for example when we are shopping or in the park.		
5	My child is starting to make friends with other children.		

Did you know?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Unknown adults should be able to understand almost all that your child says. ❖ Your child should be able to use sentences of four to six words; for example “<i>I want to play with cars</i>”. ❖ Your child may have problems saying ‘r’ ‘j’ ‘th’ ‘ch’ and ‘sh’. ❖ When your child has disagreements they should be able to use words not just actions. <p><i>Staff at your local Children’s Centre can give you more information about how your child’s speech and language is developing and are good people to talk to if you have any concerns.</i></p>

Discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • Signposting to groups • Language development leaflets • Home learning ideas • Signposting to Speech and Language Assistant for further support • Concerns from parent • Signposting to Health Visitor • Other information <p>Completed by:</p>

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Activity attended:

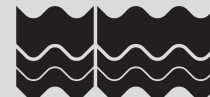
Date of birth:
Age in months:
Location:



Language checker for 40-60 months

How is my child progressing?

Listening & Attention		Yes	No
1	My child is able to listen carefully for extended periods of time and respond with comments questions or actions; for example after sharing a book about the sea they ask how big whales are.		
2	My child can keep focused, concentrate and sit quietly; for example when listening to a story.		
3	My child is beginning to be able to listen and carry out an activity at the same time; for example when the door bell rings, they continue to draw while listening out for who has arrived.		
4	My child is beginning to be able to split their attention between listening and doing ; for example when we are shopping they can listen to what we need next while helping me to find things.		
Understanding			
1	My child finds jokes and nonsense rhymes funny.		
2	My child shows they understand the meaning of "How?" and "Why?" by giving answers to questions; for example if asked " <i>How did the carpet get muddy?</i> " they might say " <i>The dog came in all muddy</i> ".		
3	My child can follow a story even when I do not use pictures or props.		
4	My child can follow instructions with words like first, after or last in; for example " <i>Get your coat first, then put on your wellies so we can go to the park</i> ".		
5	My child can understand instructions with words like 'long', 'short', 'tall', 'hard', 'soft', 'rough'; for example " <i>Give me the long one</i> ".		
Talking			
1	My child continues to learn new words especially naming words like 'zebra', 'daffodil' and 'kiwi'; and words to group things together such as 'animals', 'flowers' and 'fruit'.		
2	When my child talks they can stick to a subject and link their thoughts together; for example they can tell me about a visit to the park and what they did there.		
3	My child uses talk when in their play; for example when being a hairdresser they ask " <i>How short do you want your hair?</i> "		
4	My child uses talk to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> make sure they understand things; for example "<i>We have to get the bus mummy because the car's broken</i>". tell me how they are feeling; for example "<i>I don't like that story mummy... the wolf's scary</i>". anticipate events; for example " <i>It will be my birthday in 3 sleeps?</i> "		
5	My child sometimes uses talk in their play to make up their own stories; for example when playing at hospitals they say " <i>Quick, quick it's an emergency, I'll be the doctor, we need to get to the car crash.</i> "		



Social Communication		Yes	No
1	My child is confident to tell others what they want, what they are interested in or what they think; for example <i>“All the boys go over there and hide.. then we have to find them”</i> .		
2	My child starts conversations with other people, listens to what they say and responds.		
3	My child can tell me how they think things work and what they know; for example <i>“We have to cook the pasta before we eat it don’t we?”</i> They ask people appropriate questions; for example <i>“What time will mummy be home?”</i>		
4	When my child is talking to other people they know how to keep their attention; for example by moving closer or by repeating things.		
5	My child can show me what they need and how they feel in an appropriate way; for example <i>“I’m excited because it’s going to be my birthday”</i> or <i>“It’s making me sad that we can’t go out.”</i>		
6	My child makes good relationships with other children and adults.		
7	My child can work in larger groups and take turns with their friends; for example as part of a class.		

Did you know?

- ❖ Your child should be using well formed sentences; for example *“I played with Ben at lunchtime”*, but there may still be some grammatical errors.
- ❖ Your child’s vocabulary will still be growing fast.
- ❖ Your child should be easily understood by adults and peers, with only a few immaturities in speech sounds; for example string becomes *‘sting’*.
- ❖ Your child may pronounce ‘th/r/s’ as ‘f/w/th’.

Staff at your local Children’s Centre can give you more information about how your child’s speech and language is developing and are good people to talk to if you have any concerns.

Discussion (home learning ideas, signposting, notes)

Completed by: