





Referral Criteria for communication | Early Years | 18 months – 2:11 years

- ❖ Please note that any description is based on the child’s use of their home or main language.
- ❖ Please refer to audiology if there are concerns about hearing.
- ❖ Please refer to paediatrician if there are concerns about interaction and the child is 2;6 or over.

18 months - 24 months				
Referral guidance	Understanding 	Talking 	Speech sounds 	Social interaction 
Referral not required at this time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands and responds to simple instructions containing familiar vocabulary. Can point to familiar items in picture books. Can point to body parts. 	Beginning to use some familiar single words that are not always clear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using different sounds when babbling. Words used can be unclear. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoys interactions with adults/shows an awareness of others. Smiles at others. Uses gestures e.g points, waves.
<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development.</p> <p>Please follow links on our website for advice and monitor progress.</p>	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the ‘red’ criteria.	No recognisable words.		Some concerns in this area but not meeting the ‘red’ criteria.

<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development.</p> <p>Please follow links on our website for advice, monitor progress and then Refer to Speech & Language Service.</p>	<p>No response to frequently used words and language within routines.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not yet able to show enjoyment in social interactions. • Not using body language and movement (e.g pulling person or person’s hand), facial expression, or sounds, aimed at another person, to get their needs met (intentionally communicate). • Not pointing things out that interest them or bring things to show an adult. • Doesn’t look when an adult points to an object that they can both see.
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2 years – 2:3 years				
Referral guidance	Understanding	Talking	Speech sounds	Social interaction
<p>Referral not required at this time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands a range of words including objects e.g ball, door, spoon, simple action words e.g clap, eat, wash and describing words e.g wet, hot. • Beginning to understand instructions with two key words e.g where’s the dog’s nose, where’s the teddy’s tummy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has fifty words or more. • Beginning to use two words together e.g my baby, want more. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speech can be difficult to understand for parents/ carers/ close family. • Uses early developing sounds i.e ‘b’, ‘m’, ‘n’ ‘w’, ‘p’ ‘t’ ‘d’ in words such as ‘more’ ‘me’ ‘ball’ ‘book’ ‘Peppa’ ‘nose’ ‘water’ ‘teddy’ ‘Dad’. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows enjoyment in interactions with adults. • Shows an awareness of and interest in others. • Interested in others’ play and plays alongside them. • Able to take turns with an adult.

<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development. Please follow links on our website for advice and monitor progress.</p>	<p>Some concerns in this area but not meeting 'red' criteria.</p>	<p>No or few words.</p>	<p>Some concerns in this area but not meeting 'red' criteria.</p>	<p>Some concerns in this area but not meeting the 'red' criteria.</p>
<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development. Please follow links on our website for advice, monitor progress and then Refer to Speech & Language Service.</p>	<p>Unable to point to ten familiar objects when asked "where is the --?" in home language e.g playing with toys, looking at a picture book, doing an inset puzzle, body parts.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not yet able to show enjoyment in social interactions. • Not using body language and movement (e.g pulling person or person's hand), facial expression, or sounds, aimed at another person, to get their needs met (intentionally communicate). • Not using gestures to get their needs met or interact (e.g pointing at something they want, waving goodbye). • Not pointing things out that interest them or bring things to show an adult. • Doesn't look when an adult points to an object that they can both see.

2:3 years – 2:6 years				
Referral guidance	Understanding	Talking	Speech sounds	Social interaction
Referral not required at this time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands a range of words including familiar objects e.g ball, door, spoon, simple action words e.g clap, eat, wash, describing words e.g wet, hot. Beginning to understand instructions with two key words e.g where is the dog's nose? where is the teddy's tummy? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has fifty words or more. Beginning to use two words together e.g my baby, want more. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech can sometimes be difficult to understand for parents/carer/close family members. Uses early developing sounds i.e 'b', 'm', 'n', 'w', 'p', 't', 'd' in words such as 'more', 'ball', 'Peppa', 'nose', 'water', 'teddy' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows enjoyment in interactions with adults. Shows an awareness of and interest in others. Interested in others' play and plays alongside them. Able to take turns with an adult.
<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development.</p> <p>Please follow links on our website for advice and monitor progress.</p>	Some concerns in this area but not meeting 'red' criteria.	Only a few words.	Some concerns in this area but not meeting 'red' criteria.	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the 'red' criteria, please read and watch:

<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development. Please follow links on our website for advice, monitor progress and then Refer to Speech & Language Service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to point to ten familiar objects when asked “where is the --?” in home language e.g playing with toys, looking at a picture book, doing an inset puzzle, body parts. 	<p>No words in home language.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not yet able to show enjoyment in social interactions. • Not using body language and movement (e.g pulling person or person’s hand), facial expression, or sounds, aimed at another person, to get their needs met (intentionally communicate). • Not using gestures to get their needs met or interact (e.g pointing at something they want, waving goodbye). • Not pointing things out that interest them or bring things to show an adult. • Doesn’t look when an adult points to an object that they can both see.
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2:6 years – 2:11 years				
Referral guidance	Understanding	Talking	Speech sounds	Social interaction
Referral not required at this time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning to understand instructions with three key words e.g “give mummy a cup and plate”, “give teddy an apple and banana”. Understands action words Beginning to answer simple questions using ‘who?’ and ‘what?’ e.g ‘who is here?’ ‘what do you want for snack?’. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beginning to combine words into short sentences using two - four words. Continues to miss out small, grammatical words e.g is, the. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech can sometimes be difficult to understand for parents/carer/close family members. Uses early developing sounds i.e ‘b’, ‘m’, ‘n’ ‘w’, ‘p’ ‘t’ ‘d’ in words such as ‘more’ ‘ball’ ‘Peppa’ ‘nose’ ‘water’ ‘teddy’ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiates interaction with known adults and beginning to initiate with peers. Beginning to share and cooperate with adult support.
<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development.</p> <p>Please follow links on our website for advice and monitor progress.</p>	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the red criteria.	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the red criteria.	Some concerns in this area but not meeting red criteria.	Some concerns in this area but not meeting the red criteria.

<p>Child will need support with their speech and language development. Please follow links on our website for advice, monitor progress and then Refer to Speech & Language Service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to follow any simple two key word instructions e.g show me mummy’s eyes, show me daddy’s shoes. • Does not understand any action words e.g eat, run, sleep, cry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than fifty words. • Not joining words into two - word phrases. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not yet able to enjoy adults’ attempts to join in their play. • Not using body language and movement (e.g pulling person or person’s hand), facial expression, or sounds, aimed at another person, to get their needs met (intentionally communicate). • Not using gestures to get their needs met or interact (e.g pointing at something they want, waving goodbye). • Not pointing things out that interest them or bring things to show an adult. • Doesn’t look when an adult points to an object that they can both see.
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