

## Talk Matters – Video Transcript

Language is an amazing ability and yet children seemingly learn it effortlessly. In fact, the effort comes from you.

Did you know, your child's brain does most of its growing in the first two years of life, and it actually grows in response to your input?

How you interact together will determine your child's progress in their language development. But don't worry, it's not complicated. All you need to do is lots and lots of talking.

This film will help you to understand what to expect in your child's language development and will provide you with really good advice on the things that you can do to help your child reach their potential.

This is Joel, he's three months old. At this age Joel's hearing is really good, the best it will ever be. Did you know babies can recognise their mothers voice as soon as they're born, which means they're listening even when they're in the womb.

During his first six months, learning language for Joel is mainly about listening to the sounds and rhythm of speech. His parents are teaching him, quite unconsciously; just by speaking to him and playing together.

At this age, Joel's eyesight is still developing and he can only see things that are close up, so it's really important for him to be face to face with his parents

Joel is starting to learn about different facial expressions. Notice how he copies his dad as he sticks his tongue out.

He can't speak yet, but he is communicating with coos and by crying and of course with his body language. Whatever the age of your child, it's really important to have times of quiet, and that will mean turning off the TV and the radio. This helps Joel to listen carefully to the sound of his parent's voices - his favourite sound in the world.

This is Ki. He's 8 months old. He's grown a lot over the last few months. He's getting noisy - no real words yet, but lots of babbling. Although he can't say any words he's starting to understand some of the words he hears.

Ki is really starting to communicate quite a lot, especially with his body language - pointing, waving, reaching and grabbing. He really likes games that involve turn taking, like peekaboo. Through these games Ki is actually learning about how conversations work, about listening and taking turns.

Ki's mum has come right down to his level and the way she speaks, using a gentle, high pitched voice, copying some of the sounds Ki makes, encourages him lets him know that she's interested in what he's doing.

This is important whatever the age of your child. Ki's brother Kian is three and half. His dad is getting involved in his game, allowing Kian to lead, and encouraging him by repeating some of his ideas with an excited and interested tone of voice.

This is Lois, she's eighteen months old. A few months ago she had a real breakthrough - her first word. Since then, her mum has noticed that she's been adding quite a few new words to her vocabulary. Lois knows nearly 50 words now.

Lois might not be saying very much, but she's really listening - and because her mum is speaking slowly and simply, she's taking it all in.

Lois still babbles quite a lot but she's starting to learn and use proper words, only one word on its own though, not phrases yet. Her mum helps her by repeating Lois's words and pronouncing them properly. She's not really correcting Lois, just encouraging her and keeping the conversation going.

This is Katie, she's nearly two years old. About six months ago Katie started putting two words together. Most children start doing this after they know about 50 words.

Katie's vocab is really growing, she can't say as many words but she knows well over a hundred. Lots of her words are the names of things, mostly the thing she's interested in.

Notice how Katie's mum helped her by repeating the word Chocolate and pronouncing it correctly. Not really correcting Katie just agreeing with her.

Katie's big sister Summer is three and half. She's setting a good example for Katie and getting really creative in her use of language.

This is Logan, he's two and a half years old. He's learning lots of new words from his mum. For the past year he's been putting words together to make little sentences.

Logan leaves a lot of words out of his sentences, particularly small grammatical words. He's only recently started using describing words. Most of his words are names of the things around him. Often children at this age are quite hard to understand, because they can't always pronounce all their sounds properly.

This is quite normal and as long as Logan's mum keeps talking, he'll keep listening and practicing and he'll get there soon. Notice how Logan's mum repeated what he said and extended his words into a sentence.

This is Aisha, she's three. She's quite fluent with her speech but like most children her age sometimes stumbles over words and sentences. She's started speaking in long sentences. She can talk about what's already happened and what's going to happen.

She knows about 1000 words, but she can't say them all properly. It's hard for her to make sounds like th, l, r and sh.

Aisha's language and her imagination have really come together, she can tell stories and make things up. Notice how her dad helps her to develop her creativity.

This is Summer, she's three and a half. She'll be starting school soon. Her language skills are really developed. She knows how to ask for things and how to express her feelings. She's likes stories and books and is interested in lots of details.

When she starts school in September, she'll have the language skills she needs to make friends and to learn, to enjoy and achieve.

The best way to help your child learn to talk is to talk to them as much as possible in your own language - it doesn't have to be English. That way, your child will learn to talk confidently, and will be ready to learn English when they start at nursery or school.

Every child is an individual. They don't all develop language at the same speed. The ages of the children in this film are an approximate guideline about what to expect in your child's language development.

If you are concerned that your child isn't developing language as quickly as they should be then contact your nearest Children's Centre for advice and support.