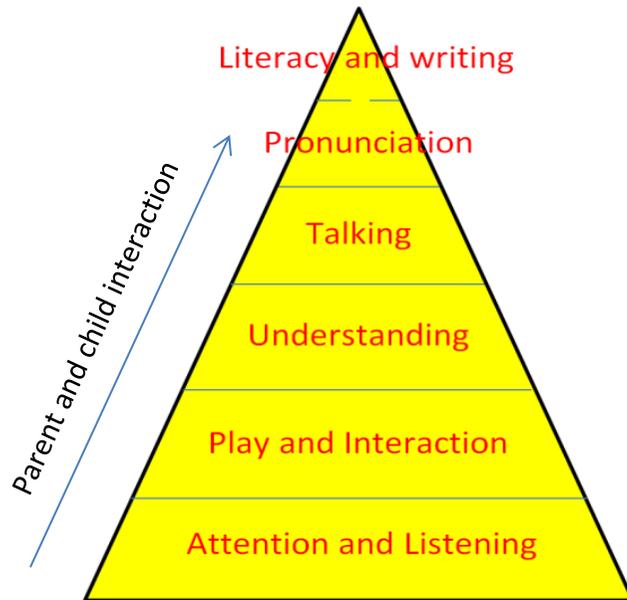


## Communication Development Pyramid



# How Babies Learn to Talk:

A guide for parents of children under 2

**Concerned about your baby's communication?**

Contact Sam (Specialist Speech and Language Therapist at Chatty Chipmunks) to arrange a FREE no obligation 15 minute wellbeing chat to discuss your concerns and how we can help.

Phone: 07425 914487

Email: [sam@chattychipmunks.co.uk](mailto:sam@chattychipmunks.co.uk)

Web: [www.chattychipmunks.co.uk](http://www.chattychipmunks.co.uk)



# Baby communication development

## Newborn-3 months:

- Listens and responds to voice and other sounds
- Expressing feeling by cooing, smiling and crying
- Exploratory play and mouthing objects

## 4-6 months:

- Turns to familiar voice
- Laughs and shares enjoyment
- Lots of early babbling, like “mamama”

## 7-12 months:

- Understands basic words and phrases, especially when accompanied by visual cues, e.g. waving goodbye. May respond to own name.
- Varied babbling such as “dadabee” and lots of imitation

## 12-18 months:

- Developing understanding of basic instructions and objects: able to point to pictures or objects. Reliably responds to own name.
- First words appear around 12 months. Babble sounds like words.
- Early functional play, e.g. using a brush to brush hair
- Using approximately 10 meaningful words by 18 months

## 18-24 months:

- Points to body parts and understands 2-part instructions, e.g. “where’s the **blue ball**?”
- 2 step play, e.g. cuddling dolly and putting her to bed by age 2
- Understanding approximately 200-300 words by age 2
- Uses approximately 50 words and 2 word sentences, e.g. “more juice” and “mummy play” by age 2

# What to do if you have any concerns

If you are concerned about your baby’s communication development, talk to your health visitor or contact us for a FREE 15 minute telephone consultation. Research shows that early intervention results in the best outcomes.

A trained speech and language therapist can meet with you to discuss your concerns and ascertain if your little one may need extra support. We can suggest and model tailored activities to help you and your baby, and offer regular progress reviews. For those around one year old and over, we can also offer regular play-based therapy sessions.

However there are activities which are recommended for every family to support your baby’s communication development:-

- ❖ Always look at your baby when talking and playing with them.
- ❖ Use exaggerated facial expressions to catch your baby’s attention and support their understanding.
- ❖ Use “baby talk” with your baby. The higher pitch and slower rate of speech will make it easier for your baby to attend to and understand what you are saying.
- ❖ Play interactive games with your baby, such as ‘peekaboo’.
- ❖ Sing songs and talk to your baby, even if they are too young to understand the words.
- ❖ Use key words and label objects for your baby, e.g. “car!”
- ❖ Use gestures alongside your talking to support your baby’s understanding. If you know Makaton or baby signing, these are an excellent way of supporting understanding while also modelling ways for your baby to express their wants and needs too before they can use the words.