

7 Signs Your Toddler May Need Speech Therapy

Signs 1-4

- ☐ **1. Not Using Many Words**
 - By 18 months, your toddler uses very few words
 - By 24 months, they have fewer words than expected and are not steadily adding new words
- ☐ **2. Not Combining Words**
 - Around age 2, most toddlers begin combining words into simple phrases such as “more milk” or “mommy help”
 - If your toddler is not putting words together, it may be worth monitoring or disussing with a professional
- ☐ **3. Difficulty Understanding Language**
 - Has trouble with familiar directions such as “get your shoes,” “give me the ball,” or “put the cup on the table”
- ☐ **4. Few Gestures or Communication Attempts**
 - Rarely points, waves, reaches, shows objects, or tries to get another person’s attention

Signs 5-7

- ☐ **5. Frequent Frustration When Communicating**
 - Often cries, pulls adults, gives up, or becomes upset when others cannot understand what they want
- ☐ **6. People have Difficulty Understanding Them**
 - Even familiar caregivers often struggle to understand them, and speech clarity is not gradually improving



7. Loss of Words or Skills

If your child previously used words, gestures, or communicain skills and those skills have disappeared, discuss this with your pediatrica as suit as possible.

The Whole Picture



Ask yourself: Is my child making steady progress over time, or have skills stalled or fallen behind compared to what I would expect?

- ☐ Learning new words regularly
- ☐ Combining words
- ☐ Following simple directions
- ☐ Using gestures to communicate
- ☐ Interaction socially with others
- ☐ Becoming easier to understand
- ☐ Making steady progress over time

When I Would Pay Closer Attention

- Multiple signs are present
- Progress has stalled for several months
- Communication frustrations are increasing
- Skills have been lost
- I have an ongoing concern that isn't improving

One sign alone does not mean a child needs speech therapy. However, if multiple signs are present, progress has stalled, skills are lost, or concerns persist, consider discussing your child's communication development with your pediatrician or a licensed speech-language pathologist.