

Why Is My Toddler Talking Late?

Speech and language delays can have many contributing factors. Often there is not one single explanation.

Common Factors

- Hearing differences
- Frequent ear infections
- Family history
- Language development differences
- Motor speech challenges

Helpful Next Steps

- Talk with your pediatrician
- Consider a hearing evaluation
- Contact a speech-language pathologist
- Create daily communication opportunities
- Let your child communicate for themselves

*SLP Mom Tip

*During everyday routines, pause before giving your child what they want.

*The small moment gives them a chance to point, gesture, make a sound, or try a word and every communication attempt counts.



Important to Know

A speech delay is not caused by loving, comforting, or responding to your child. Bilingualism does not cause a speech delay, and a speech delay alone does not automatically mean that a child has autism. Every child's communication profile is unique.

- You don't need special activities to support your toddler's speech.
- The best language moments happen during your everyday routines.
- Gestures, pointing, sounds, and signs *all* count as communication!
- Your job is to model words, not force them.
- You're doing great!

