

“Learning To Talk” A pack for parents



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“Talking is what we need to do
and I will learn it all from you.”





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“Talking is what we need to do and I will learn it all from you.”

Learning to talk is one of the most important skills that children need to develop before they go to school. Being able to talk and communicate well is proven to help children make friends, learn to read and have better opportunities in life.

Even in the womb, babies can hear your voice and they will respond to familiar voices from birth. Babies are born with brains that have a huge potential to learn. The first two years are known to be very important in helping babies learn all the foundation skills that are required for talking. These include looking, listening, copying and making early sounds. By the age of two toddlers can understand simple instructions, use about 50 words and will be joining two words together.

Babies and young children spend most of their time with their mums and dads and other family members so you are the best people to promote early communication and the development of talking. Research tells us that a child's ability to talk is strongly influenced by how much mums and dads talk to their children. Talking and responding to your baby and young child as well as singing, playing and reading together will help your babbling baby grow into a happy and healthy talking toddler.

This pack provides information and advice for mums and dads to help your child learn to talk – from the very beginning, in the womb, right through until they start school.

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“Play your part right from the start.”

- I can hear your voice from 24 weeks of pregnancy.
- After birth, I can soon recognise voices that I heard in the womb.
- I love to hear you sing to me.



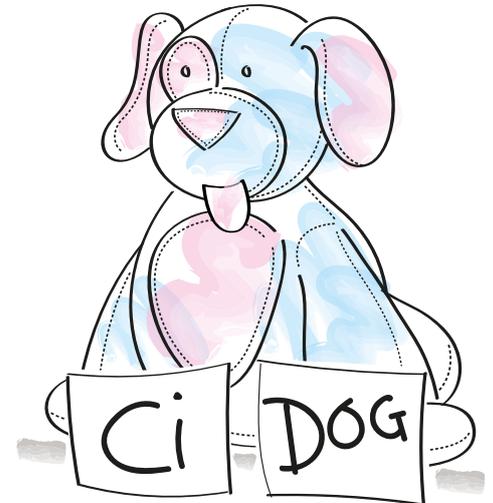


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“Keep our language alive and I will thrive.”

- I can absorb Welsh and other languages from birth.
- If I am bilingual from birth, I find it easier to learn other languages.
- I can learn our language and culture from you.



Under 2 years old



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“Our best place is face to face.”

- Before I can speak I communicate with you through eye contact, smiling, gurgling and crying.
- When we are face to face you can see what I am trying to tell you.
- Keep me close when you talk to me.





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“Sing me a rhyme at nappy time.”

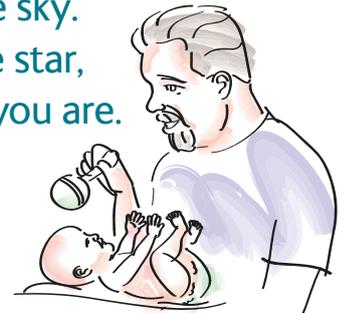
- I like hearing the same song again and again.

Row, row, row your boat.

Row, row, row your boat,
Gently down the stream,
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,
Life is but a dream.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.





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“Talk, Talk, Talk. Please Talk to me.”

- I need to hear the same words again and again so I can remember them.
- Copy my sounds or words back to me.
- Tell me what I can see and what’s around me.





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“Listen to me, not the TV.”

- Turn the TV, music and computer off when we are talking together.
- Our talking time is special so leave your phone in your pocket.
- I can't listen to two things at once.





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“Let’s look at a book.”

- I can’t read yet but I love looking at pictures and listening to you.
- Don’t worry about all the words just talk about the pictures.
- I love it when you use silly voices to tell me a story.





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“Let’s play every day.”

- Playing with you is my favourite game... have a go at peepo.
- Meal times, nappy time and bath time. Anytime is play time.
- Talk to me when we are playing and I will learn new words.





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“For clear speech keep my dummy out of reach.”

- It's hard for me to babble and talk with a dummy in my mouth.
- I only need my dummy when I want to go to sleep.
- I don't need a dummy after my first birthday.



Over 2 years old



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“Our best place is face to face.”

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- Look at me when I am talking to you.
- It's easier to hear and understand each other when we are face to face.





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“Sing me a rhyme at any time.”

- I can join in with the words and actions of songs and rhymes.
- I still like hearing the same songs again and again.
- If I know lots of songs and rhymes I will learn to read more easily.





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“Sing me a rhyme at any time.”

Head, shoulders, knees and toes.

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes.

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes.

And eyes, and ears, and mouth, and
nose,

Head, shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes.

One, two three four five.

One, two, three, four, five...
once I caught a fish alive.

Six, seven, eight, nine, ten...
then I let him go again.

Why did you let him go,
Because he bit my finger so.

Which finger did he bite,
This little finger on my right.



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“Talk, Talk, Talk. Please Talk to me.”

- Tell me everything about what I can see, hear, touch, taste and smell.
- Let's take turns at talking.
- Remember I may need more time to choose and use my words. Please wait for me to talk.





“Listen to me, not the TV.”

- Turn the TV, music and computer off when we are talking and playing together.
- Our talking time is special so leave your phone in your pocket.
- I can't concentrate for long if there is a lot going on.





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“Let’s look at a book.”

- I still can’t read yet but I love joining in with books and stories.
- Words are everywhere, point them out to me.
- I love to hear some of my favourite stories again and again.





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“Let’s play every day.”

- Help my imagination grow, lets play pretend.
- I’m learning to play with my friends but sometimes we need your help.
- I play for longer when I choose the game.





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“For clear speech keep my dummy out of reach.”

- I really don't need my dummy now, it makes my words unclear.
- If my words are not quite clear, let me hear you say it right (please don't tell me I've got it wrong).

