

Where to start if your child isn't using many words yet

If your child has started saying words, but only says a few, this can lead to frustration. Below are some ideas of things you can try, and some links to our Toolkit documents that contain more information.

If you see progress, keep going!! Progress comes in little steps and can take time.

It is important that your child develops their understanding as well as their talking – look at [First Words](#) for help with this.

A useful strategy is commenting on what they are doing rather than asking questions. See our toolkit sheet on [Comments and Questions](#)

[Adding Language](#) is an excellent strategy to increase language use – this means matching what your child has said but adding one extra word

If your child uses the wrong word, or doesn't say it clearly, see our toolkit sheet on [Modelling](#) to help with this.

There are some great general strategies in our [Top 10 SLT tips \(under 5 years\)](#) sheet, and video clips in our [Animations](#), all of which will help with encouraging more communication.

Sometimes children find that they don't need to use their words to get the things they want. [Creating Opportunities to Communicate](#) contains lots of suggestions of ways you can motivate your child to talk more often.

Too much screen time can affect a child's communication skills, as screens don't interact with your child. Our [Screen Time](#) toolkit sheet has more information.

If you have tried these strategies and you are still concerned, you can refer your child to our service using the referral form on the web site [here](#).

