

**There is no doubt, the Early Years are fun & challenging in equal measure!
Keep checking in to our tweets & Facebook page for helpful tips on focus areas**

Developmental Milestones – parents often wonder what their child should be doing in terms of development and compare their child to other children of a similar age - click the link below for more information about your child's development:

<https://inourplace.co.uk/developmental-and-emotional-milestones-leaflet/#:~:text=%20Developmental%20and%20emotional%20milestones%20leaflet%20%201,wrong..%20%206%20guilt%2C%20fantasies..%20%20More%20>

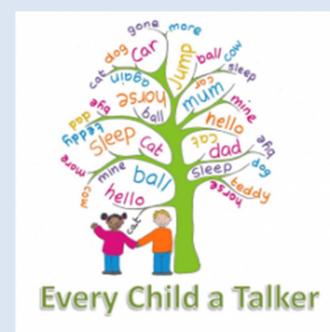
Always speak to your Health Visitor, School Nurse or GP if you have any concerns or for more advice about your child's development



This week we are focusing on Speech, Language and Communication Development:

Knowing whether your child's speech and language development is within the expected 'norms' for their age can be tricky, especially as there is a raft of conflicting information available on the internet and from friends and family on this subject. So what is 'normal', what can you do to help your child's speech and language development, is there anything that could be hindering their development and what can you do if you have concerns or need more support?

- First and foremost, remember that children develop speech, language and communication skills at different rates - some develop quickly, while others may take longer
- It is important to know that children begin to understand words before they can say them
- There are very clear stages in a child's speech and language development, and a bit like building a house, the foundations need to be in place before the next stage can be developed and so on
- Here in Solihull we would recommend that you use the following website to find out about the ages and stages of your child's Speech, Language and Communication development. This site also gives helpful tips and ideas about what you can do to help at each stage of your child's development <https://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/parents/ages-and-stages/>
- Use of a dummy can adversely impact speech and language development. Find out the pros and cons of dummy use here: <https://ican.org.uk/i-cans-talking-point/parents/do-dummies-affect-speech/>
- Depending on your child's age and stage of development, certain issues will need further investigation, such as: difficulty listening and paying attention, difficulty relating to other people, limited understanding of what others say, difficulty learning and using new words, difficulty putting words together in sentences, unclear speech, difficulty getting words out or stammering, a hoarse or croaky voice, difficulty taking part in conversations or difficulty in swallowing or feeding
- If you have general concerns about your child speech, language and communication development, or your child has any of the difficulties mentioned above, speak to your Health Visitor or School Nurse



**For more information about parenting support available, please contact the Parenting Team via our Facebook page, or by email to bsmhft.parenting@nhs.net
Fortnightly parenting themed tweets can be viewed on our Facebook page - Solihull Parenting Team, or via the school nurse twitter feed: @SolSchNurses**