

Sparkbrook

**Children's  
Zone**



# Communication and Speech Development

Supporting children and families to live happy, healthy lives.

# Introduction

## What is Sparkbrook Children's Zone?

**Our Doctors, Nurse and Family Support Team help children and families to lead happy, healthy lives. We offer clinics, advice and outreach activities across Balsall Heath, Sparkbrook and Sparkhill.**

**Children and young people, aged 0 to 16, can get a booked appointment from their GP to see a children's nurse and a doctor, and the whole family is able to receive support from Early Help.**

## Who is this booklet for?

**Teaching your child to speak can be hard, this booklet is to help parents, carers, and professionals through the stages.**

## Birth – 2 months

New-born babies recognise their mother's smell and voice from birth. Skin to skin contact after birth and in the first few days should promote a positive response from your baby. When they become calmer, breast feeding is often more successful. They will cry in response to pain, hunger, a wet or dirty nappy. Babies will interact with their carers by eye contact, facial expressions and their ability to cry. They will become more settled and happy when satisfied.



## By 2 months your baby can:

- Make throaty/gurgly sounds
- Make noises such as 'ooo' 'aah' 'gah'
- Smile in response to your voice when you speak to them
- May laugh softly
- May smile or become excited when they see you



*Please see your GP, Midwife or HV if you have any concerns about your baby's hearing or sight.*

**By 6 months  
your baby can:**

- Make high noises and laugh in play and sadness
- Make grunting and low noises
- Baby turns towards a familiar voice
- Baby turns towards a loud noise
- Babbling – ‘da’ ‘ga’ ‘ka’ ‘ba’ ‘der’ ‘goo’
- Confident around unknown people
- Use a cup (not bottles and dummies)



**By 9 months  
your baby can:**

- Make noises like ‘da’ ‘ga’ ‘ka’ ‘ba’
- Play Peekaboo
- Follow ‘come’ or ‘please’ without hands helping
- Has an understanding of familiar words such as 'Mama, Dada'
- Become wary of people who are not their main care giver, and will cry in response to others approaching or picking them up



**By 12 months  
your baby can:**

- Put two words together: ba-ba, da-da, ma-ma, ga-ga
- Point to things they want: drink or toy
- Can your child look at things spoken about: toys, food, person?



## By 18 months your baby can:

- Point to what they would like.
- When asked, can your child go into another room to find a familiar item such as 'where is your ball?' or 'bring me your shoes please'
- Have 8 words or more in addition to Mama and Dada
- Say 2 words together, for example 'Dada gone', 'Mama eat' 'Go home' or 'What's this?'
- Without showing them, can they point to the correct picture in a book when you say, 'Where is the dog (kitten, ball, elephant)?'
- 2-3 words with different meanings such as 'See dog' or 'Daddy come home'.



## By 2 years your baby can:

- Say a variety of short sentences such as 'Mama food' 'Daddy play' 'Go home' 'What's this?'
- When asked 'Where is the dog' 'Where is the ball?' can your child point to the correct picture in a book?
- Without giving clues, can your child carry out some directions such as 'Can you find your shoes?' 'Put the toy on the table please, 'Close the door please.'
- If you point at a picture of a ball (cat, cup, hat etc), and ask 'What is this?' can they name at least two items correctly?
- Say two or three words that represent different ideas together such as, 'See dog' 'Daddy come home' 'Baby cry.'



### By 3 years your child can:

- Know names of body parts: head, arm, leg, eye
- Put more words together: 'Daddy gone on walk', 'Grandma is here'
- Follow longer instructions: 'Put the book on the table', 'Hang up your coat'
- Talk about a picture in a book: 'child running', 'dog barking' 'what is that boy doing?'
- Know their first and last name when asked 'what is your name?'



### By 4 years your child can:

- Can respond to 'what do you eat?' with three items such as 'egg, apple, cheese'
- Can respond to 'what do you do if you are hungry?' with an answer such as 'I eat food' 'I ask mum for food'.
- Use word endings such as 's', 'ed' , 'ing' (Play -> Playing, Cat -> Cats, Kick -> Kicked)
- Can respond to three instructions when asked in one sentence: 'Clap your hands, walk to the door and sit down'
- Can say full sentences such as 'I am going to the park'



## Resources to improve Speech Development

**Tiny Happy People: Help on baby development**  
[www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/baby-development](http://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people/baby-development)

**Mr Tumble: Speech Development Activities**  
[www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p07ctlr6/mr-tumble](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p07ctlr6/mr-tumble)

**Speech and Language UK**  
[www.speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/](http://www.speechandlanguage.org.uk/help-for-families/)

**BCHC Speech and Language Therapy**  
[www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/childrens-slt](http://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/childrens-slt)

**NHS - Help Your Baby Learn To Talk**  
[www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/babys-development/play-and-learning/help-your-baby-learn-to-talk/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/baby/babys-development/play-and-learning/help-your-baby-learn-to-talk/)

## Local Support

If you are registered to one of these GP's you can ring your GP and ask for an appointment with the Sparkbrook Children's Zone and they will book an appointment:

- Dr Walji, Dr Raghavan & First Care at Balsall Heath Health Centre
- Spark Medical Group (Brook Surgery & St George's)
- Highgate Medical Practice
- The Hill General Practice
- Fernley Medical Centre
- Springfield Medical Practice (Dr Rajput)

**You can also see your Health Visitor (HV) or GP for help with your child's talking skills.**



Sparkbrook

**Children's  
Zone**



**Email: [scz@greensquareaccord.co.uk](mailto:scz@greensquareaccord.co.uk)**

**Website: [www.sparkbrookchildrenszone.org.uk](http://www.sparkbrookchildrenszone.org.uk)**

