



## Talk 2 Me

Public Awareness ~ Early Identification ~ Intervention ~ Consultation ~ Education

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### *Is My Child a “Late Talker”?*

“Late Talker” is a term used to describe children between the ages of 18-30 months of age who have a good understanding of language and typically developing skills in most areas (play, motor, social and thinking), but have limited use of language. Their main area of concern is limited spoken vocabulary for their age.

When should you be concerned? Current research has shown some guidelines. Signs that your child may be a Late Talker include:

- fewer than 24 words and is between 18-20 months of age
- fewer than 40 words and is between 21-24 months of age
- fewer than 100 words and/or no 2-word combinations and is between 24-30 months of age.

Will your child “grow out of it”? Many children who are Late Talkers do, but many do not. Here is a list of risk factors which may indicate a continued difficulty in developing language skills:

- quiet as an infant; little babbling
- a history of ear infections
- limited number of consonant sounds (e.g. p, b, m, t, d, n, y, k, g, etc.)
- does not link pretend ideas and actions together while playing
- does not imitate (copy) words
- uses mostly names of people, places, things (nouns), and few or no action words (verbs)
- difficulty playing with peers (social skills)
- a family history of communication delay, learning or academic difficulties
- a mild comprehension (understanding) delay for his or her age
- uses few or no gestures to communicate

If your child has a limited vocabulary and any of the risk factors listed above, please call **Talk 2 Me** to see a speech-language pathologist. It is never too early to call for help--*Don't wait and see!*

#### References:

1. The Hanen Centre: [www.hanen.org](http://www.hanen.org)
2. Target Word, The Hanen program for parents of children who are late talkers
3. MacArthur CDI, Words and Sentences, percentile norms
4. ASHA Perspectives on Language Learning and Education, 2008