



## When will my child talk?

Talking in adult like sentences is a complex skill that only emerges after several developmental milestones have been achieved. The act of talking also builds gradually starting with babbling, jargon, and approximation of words before combining words together. But what are the steps involved with talking? When will they be able to say their first word?

Imagine that the act of talking is like building a house. First you need the foundations and then the walls and finally you build the roof. Each of these stages represent part of learning to talk.

<b>Ground</b>	Consistent hearing aid use
<b>Foundations</b>	Listening skills. These skills include attention, listening, play, eye contact and turn taking.
<b>Walls</b>	Language comprehension
<b>Roof</b>	Language expression

Consistent hearing aid/ implant wear is ground zero. Children who are deaf or hard of hearing need to be able to hear all the sounds of speech. The only way this is achieved is through wearing technology during all waking hours.

Once wear has been established, the foundation listening skills can be achieved.

Attention, listening and eye contact involve keeping your child engaged long enough for them to be receptive to language. For example, if you want to teach your child the word banana, but your child keeps looking away from the banana, or only has fleeting attention to a banana, it will be hard for that concept to be consolidated. As your child learns to listen for longer periods of time, more language can be inputted and understood.

Once children have established strong listening skills, their receptive language can grow. For children to understand words, they must hear the same words repeatedly and in many different contexts. For a child to know what a 'car', they would have heard it when you were driving the car, when they saw other cars driving past on the street, when you played cars with them on the floor, when you saw grandma's car pull into the driveway etc. All these scenarios will help your child visualize and understand what a car is and associate it with the word 'car'.

Once your child has a good understanding of car, he is ready to start to use it himself. First attempts at words may not sound exactly like the adult form. For a long time it might sound like 'tar'. This is still a word as it is used with meaning and in the correct context. Once your child can say around 50 words, they will start combining words together. Soon 2 word combinations becomes 3 words phrases until they reach an explosion of language and start producing strings of long sentences together.

But those skills did not happen overnight. We need to work from the ground up. To help your child learn to talk build strong foundations of listening and understanding. The roof will come before you know it.

### Can:Do 4Kids

Phone | 08 8100 8200 Fax | 08 8178 3999 Email | [info@cando4kids.com.au](mailto:info@cando4kids.com.au)