**Development of Expression (Use of Language)**

**Developmental Norm Chart (18 months – 5 years of age)**

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| **Age** | **Would usually have/use** | **I should be concerned if…** | **Don’t worry if….** |
| **18 months – 1;11** | * **Minimum of 25 words** * **Desire to communicate both non verbally and non verbally** * **Attempting to copy sounds and words** | * **No desire to communicate** * **Only has 5-10 words** | * **Child’s words are not completely clear** * **Baby talk is still used for some words** |
| **2;00 – 2;06** | * **Using a minimum of 50 words and some two word combinations** * **Using early action words (e.g. run, eat, jump)** * **Shows and names body parts** | * **Less than 50 words reported** * **No attempt to join words** | * **Sounds are still unclear** * **Continues to use some baby talk** |
| **2;06 – 2;11** | * **Has approx 300 words** * **Asks simple questions** * **Is linking two words together** * **Using action words** * **Stammering behaviour common** * **Describes what an object is for** * **Using own name** * **Using adjectives (e.g. describing words such as big/little) / position words (e.g. in, on or under)** | * **Child makes no attempt to interact / communicate** * **Child’s vocabulary is not increasing** * **Child is not beginning to join words e.g. “more juice** | * **Lots of sounds are still unclear** * **Child is beginning to join words** * **Child uses baby talk for some words e.g. bikki for biscuit** * **Child misses out little words in sentences e.g. a / the / tense endings** |
| **3;00 – 3;05** | * **Sentences of 4 + words in length** * **Good vocabulary** * **Simple story / event telling** * **Having conversations** * **Asks lots of questions** | * **Any of the above** * **Child does not use everyday words e.g. cup , car** * **Child is not using any action words** * **Child echoes sentences back all the time** | * **Child can be a little shy with strangers** * **Child still has some speech difficulties** * **Child misses off / confuses verb tense endings** |
| **3;06 – 3;11** | * **Sentences of 5-6 words in length** * **Knows wide range of vocabulary** * **Starting to describe past / present experiences** | * **Sentences are very short** * **Child uses non specific words a lot e.g. “it / “there” / “do”** * **Child is not communicating with others** * **Not having a conversation** | * **Still has some speech difficulties (see speech sheet)** * **Makes grammatical errors e.g. “I runned to the shop”** |
| **4;00 – 5;00** | * **Sentences of 6-8 words in length** * **Knows wide range of vocabulary** * **Uses full sentences with the words in the right order** * **Speaks of imaginary things** * **Uses joining words e.g. and** | * **Any of the above** * **Child misses out most grammatical markers** * **Child cannot tell a simple story** * **Child cannot talk about the past and future** | * **Makes mild grammatical errors** * **Confuses he/she / him / her** |