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

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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**
 |