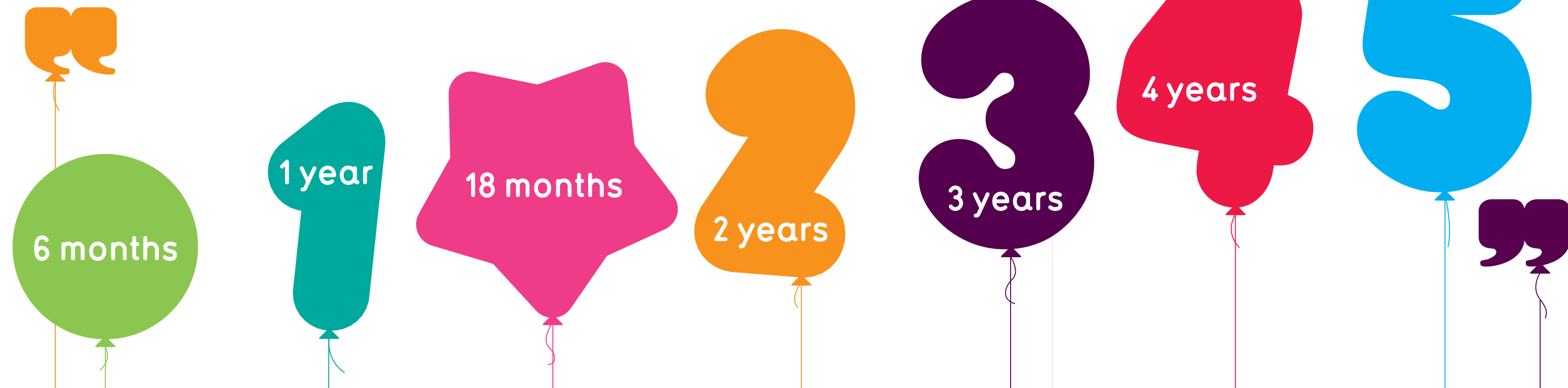




helps children communicate

First words

Talk to your child using the language you would naturally use at home. If your child is not doing what is shown for their age, look for help: talk to your health visitor, GP or contact your local speech and language therapist directly. For advice and further information, visit: www.talkingpoint.org.uk



6 months

- Baby watches your face when you talk to them close up
- They are playing with sounds. You hear noises like, “Bababa”
- Starting to understand, words that you use a lot, such as “Bye bye” and “Milk”

1 year

- Baby will be using simple words anytime now
- The new words they use will not sound like adult words yet
- They can do what you ask them when you use simple sentences, “Give it to mummy.”

18 months

- Toddlers will now start to join words together, “Teddy gone”
- They can find things that you ask for – pictures in books or toys in the room
- When your toddler talks to you, help them by reflecting back what you understand. Them: “Cat.” You: “Yes, the cat’s sleeping”

2 years

- Children now understand longer sentences, “Your shoes are upstairs”
- Starting to use lots of single words (up to 200), building short 2 to 4 word sentences
- They are using and understanding new words every day

3 years

- Sentences used get longer and more complicated, “I’m going to Nana’s and I’m gonna get a toy car”
- Children still find some word sounds difficult ie. r, w, l, y, f, th, s, sh, ch, j
- Children may stumble over their words and sentences. This is expected at this age

4 years

- People who haven’t met your child before will be able to understand their words
- Children are asking lots of questions, especially “Why?” questions
- They can talk about things they have done and will do

5 years

- Children can now easily turn their attention to you, even if they are playing
- They will understand longer and more complicated sentences, “Find the orange and black pens”
- Most adult word sounds are now used

Top Tip
Talk to Baby when doing things together – changing nappies, feeding or taking them out

Top Tip
Help Baby to listen by turning off the TV when you talk and play with them

Top Tip
If your toddler is not using any words or if they don’t seem to understand you, **look for help**

Top Tip
Help to develop word sounds by repeating your child’s words back. Them: “Dod.” You: “Yes, it’s a dog”

Top Tip
Give your child plenty of time to speak. Don’t draw their attention to any difficulties they seem to have

Top Tip
Comment on what your child is doing rather than asking them lots of questions

Top Tip
Look for help if people cannot understand your child, or if your child understands or uses only simple words and sentences