

The early language 0-3 years

– et fælles ansvar

ENGELSK





The early language (0-9 months)

Do you know that, at birth your child

- already has linguistic experiences?
- distinguishes language sounds very precisely?
- that for several weeks it has been able to recognise the mother tongue?

Do you know

- That all new-born babies babble – also deaf children (up to the age of 6 months)?
- That the new-born baby can mimic adults' facial expressions?

Do you know that

- The new-born baby's early eye-contact, sounds, crying and grunting are parts of small conversations with you?
- The really close communication, where the new-born can read the direction of your gaze, reaction and tone of voice has a direct connection to the later vocabulary of the child?
- The more situations with common attention that are part of the child's everyday life, the faster the child learns new words?



The early language (0-9 months)

Do you know that at the age of 9 months your child

- is expected to be able to share the attention of another person?
- begins to mimic adults' actions – also sounds and tones of language?
- can connect sounds with things? (telephone, keys)

How you may help your child's language development:

- Answer the child's signals in a positive manner and regard them as an important part of the communication.
- Try to guess what the child is saying with its sounds. And say the word!
- Play with your child. For example "give – and take"-games, games where the child sits on your lap, such as "Ride a cock horse to Banbury Cross ..", finger games, hiding games.
- Sing with your child.
- Have common attention to new things and actions in the everyday life – face to face.



The early language (0-9 months)

The bilingual child

- If your child grows up with Danish as second language, it is of great importance that your child has a well-developed mother tongue.
- Your child learns Danish based on its earlier experiences from the mother tongue.
- It is therefore important that you strengthen and speak the mother tongue with your child, if that is the language of which you have the best command.



Help your child to express emotions and interest

Your child laughs and you say: "I can see that you are happy!"



Follow your child's gaze, share the experience with the child and put it into words

Your child has lost one of the socks and is grabbing its toes, and you say: "Whoops! Your sock is gone!"





The child's language from 9 months to 3 years of age

Do you know that

- your child begins to point to objects, when it is around 11 to 13 months of age?
- your child's facial expressions and gesticulations play an important role in the development of the language?

Maybe the child points to an object and says one of the very first words: "it". Maybe the child just stretches the arm out to show you the object.

At the age of 11-13 months of age the child also begins to communicate with more nuances – for example by opening the arms to show something in gone or to spontaneously wave when somebody comes or goes.



Your child reaches the hand in which it holds the piece of banana out towards you and says: "Da!"

You say: "Yes, you have a banana!"

"



The child's language from 9 months to 3 years of age

Do you know that your child

- at 8 months of age can understand between 10 and 20 words
- at 15 months of age can understand around 100 words, even if it can only say around 10-20 words itself.

Look at the object, which your child is interested in and talk about it.

Give your child time to repeat.

You have said something to your child – now you wait patiently for many seconds – you look encouragingly at the child – and then the word might come.

Or you wait until the child says something itself – and then you reply with similar sounds and words.

Answer the child's questions.



When you have only poured a small sip of juice into your child's cup, you give it the opportunity to ask for more. Your child reaches out with the cup and says: "Duus!" You nod and answer: "Juice. Ah, so you would like some more juice!"



The child's language from 9 months to 3 years of age

Do you know that

- the desire to communicate increases when you have something on your mind and know that someone is happy to listen to you.
- you help your child by putting words to emotions and actions
- your child senses when you really want to communicate and when you just want to hear words!



Form full sentences yourself and avoid to just point at objects.

"Can I have the shoe?" or
"Would you please give me the shoe?"



**Accept the way your child talks.
Repeat the sentence correctly.**

Your child says: "dragdor dives!"
And you reply "Yes, the tractor is driving"





Pleay, read and sing together with your child

Games such as “Patty cake” and singing games such as “Itsy, bitsy spider” and similar are fun to play with the child and help develop your child’s language.

Pointing books and picture books with large pictures and bright colours are good. Start early; even the very young child can distinguish colours and shapes.



Try to make a small book with pictures/photographs from home – photos of grandparents, the cat, mom, dad, siblings, the swing in the garden, the rabbit, your child’s own cup, your child’s own bed, the fire-engine you saw together etc.

Look through the books together and also read the same books many times.

Hand-puppets help captivate and keep your child’s attention when you sing and tell stories.

The language grows, when you speak together

You and your child look in a picture book together. Your child say: "Baby sleep"
(points and looks up at you)

You say: "Yes, the baby is asleep ... We must be quiet so we don't wake her up."



Use the library. Also talk about things your child does not know. For example wild animals, children in far-away countries, strange vehicles. Watch children's TV together and talk about what you are watching!



A good hearing

Your child may have reduced hearing capability for months after an inflammation of the middle ear or a serious cold. During this period it may be difficult to hear the language sounds.

Having good hearing is crucial for the language development.

If you are worried about the linguistic development of your child, you should have your child's ears and hearing tested by an ear specialist.



Signs that help may be needed

- If the child at 6 months of age does not babble and react to other people's talk
- If the child at 1½ years of age has not at all begun to use words
- If the child at 2 years of age only uses few words to express his/her wishes and needs
- If your child does not point, change facial expressions or use other non-linguistic expressions, it may mean that the child might develop linguistic difficulties later.

Or in any case if the child is not interested in communicating with its surroundings.

Links

- www.biblioteket.sonderborg.dk
- www.sprogpakken.dk
- eller søg på nettet efter f.eks. 'små børns sprog', 'sprogstimulering', 'sprogudvikling', 'babytegn' osv.



Du kan også finde denne og andre brochurer online på

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