

## **Back to Basics Tips for Working With Late Talkers**

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### **Late Language Emergence (ASHA.org)**

- Late language emergence is a delay in language onset with no other diagnosed disabilities or developmental delays in other cognitive or motor domains.
- Children with late language emergence may have expressive language delays, or they may have mixed expressive and receptive delays. These children may be at risk for developing language and/or literacy difficulties.
- Between 10-20% of 2 year old children are late talkers

### **Risk Factors for Late Language Emergence**

- Males are three times more likely than females to exhibit late language emergence.
- Children with late language emergence were found to have delayed motor development when compared with typically developing peers.
- Children born at less than 85% of their optimum birthweight or prior to 37 weeks gestation were at higher risk.
- Language abilities at 12 months were a reliable predictor of communication skills at 2 years.
- Family history of late language emergence
- Mother's education and socioeconomic status of the family

### **Signs and Symptoms**

- By 18 months: Using fewer than 20 words, not using different types of words. (Hanan)
- By 24 months: Using fewer than 100 words and not combining words together (Hanan)
- By 24 months: Using fewer than 50 words and no two-word combinations (ASHA)
- Rate of vocabulary growth, speech sound development, emerging grammar, language comprehension, social language skills, use of gestures, and symbolic play behaviors should also be considered. (ASHA)
- Delays in babbling before 24 months is often a predictor of later delays in expressive vocabulary, as well as limited phonetic repertoire and use of simpler syllable shapes. (ASHA)