



let's talk

Developmental Hub

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Helping children to speak
... and find their voice



THE GLENLEIGHDEN
SCHOOL

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Primary Language Disorder – why we should stop hating grammar

Some useful signs for parents

The stages at which a child begins to use, and then develops proficiency in, adult forms of grammatical expression (rather than just using single words), may be one of the best signs for parents in determining whether a child has Primary Language Disorder.

It is usual for a child to begin to use more complex grammatical forms (such as the articles *a, the*), auxiliary verbs (*is, have*) and related verb tenses (*past, present, future, etc.*), pronouns (*my, your, his, etc.*), adjectives (to describe noun words) and adverbs (to describe verbs), progressively from about the age of two to two-and-a-half, onwards.

And research has shown that by the age of seven a child will have absorbed all the forms of grammatical expression he or she will use for the rest of his or her life.

After the age of seven, a person's vocabulary may, or is almost certain to, develop considerably – but not one's mastery of grammar. That will already be in place.

Thus, it is important to intervene early if a child has a speech or language impairment.

If not dealt with, a speech and/or language disorder may have serious implications in terms of a person's level of literacy in general, their capacity to learn and their ability to mix and socialise with others (amongst other things). See Fact Sheet 3.

Some language markers:

8-12 months	First words	<i>mama, dada, etc.</i>
12-18 months	Names of objects	<i>cat, puppy, teddy, etc.</i>
	Responses	<i>more, no more, all gone, etc.</i>
18-24 months	Two word phrases	<i>good boy, big hug, big noise, etc.</i>
2-4 years	Use of grammar	<i>I'm thirsty (not just Thirsty or Me thirsty or I thirsty), She is running, Rover chased the ducks, etc.</i>

Children do not all develop their skills and abilities (crawling, standing, walking, talking, etc.) at the same age. But if you are concerned a child is not talking as indicated above, or not using age-appropriate expressions, it may be time to for an assessment.

The staff at **LET'S TALK** may be able to help.

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