



LITTLE GEMS NEWSLETTER

**Supporting Late Talkers:
Practical strategies for parents**



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Hello families. This month we're focusing on late talkers—children who are developing more slowly with their first words. We'll explore what being a "late talker" really means, when to be reassured, and when to seek help. Plus, you'll find practical tips, games, and resources to make talking fun at home.

Remember: Every child develops differently, and small changes can make a big difference.



Learning focus

What is a late talker?

A child (18–30 months) with a smaller vocabulary than expected but otherwise developing typically.



- **Fewer than 20 words by 18 months**
- **Not combining 2 words by age 2**
- **Limited gestures or poor response to sounds**

If you've noticed any of these, don't panic—but do reach out. Early support makes all the difference.



3. Not Following Instructions
Trouble following simple directions like “Get your shoes and come here” could mean receptive language difficulties.

Parent Tip of the Month: Narrate Your Day



Use self-talk and parallel talk:

- **Self-talk:** Describe what you're doing. ("I'm washing the apple. Now I'm cutting it.")
- **Parallel talk:** Describe what your child is doing. ("You're building a tower. Wow, it's tall!")
- **This gives children rich language models without pressure to respond.**

First 50 words checklist

Encourage, track, and celebrate your child's growing vocabulary! Every child develops differently — this checklist helps you notice and celebrate each new word as it appears.

Tick a box or colour in a star whenever your child says a new word (even if it's not pronounced perfectly!).

💡 Tip: Include words your child says in play, mealtimes, story time, or out and about. Repeat them naturally during everyday routines.

★ How to use:

Keep the checklist on your fridge or notice board.

Date each new word to see progress over time.

Praise attempts and model the correct version gently.

When your child reaches 50 words, celebrate — you're building the foundation for sentences!

First 50 words checklist

	Category	Tick	Word	Date First Said	Category	Tick	Word	Date First Said
1	Everyday Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	mummy		Toys & Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	ball	
2	Everyday Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	daddy		Toys & Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	car	
3	Everyday Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	baby		Toys & Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	book	
4	Everyday Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	hello		Toys & Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	shoe	
5	Everyday Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	bye-bye		Toys & Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	hat	
6	Everyday Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	yes		Toys & Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	bed	
7	Everyday Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	no		Toys & Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	chair	
8	Everyday Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	more		Toys & Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	light	
9	Everyday Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	all gone		Toys & Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	door	
10	Everyday Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	thank you		Toys & Objects	<input type="checkbox"/>	keys	
11	Everyday Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	dog		Action Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	go	
12	People & Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	cat		Action Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	come	
13	People & Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	bird		Action Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	eat	
14	People & Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	fish		Action Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	drink	
15	People & Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	cow		Action Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	sleep	
16	People & Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	sheep		Action Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	jump	
17	People & Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	duck		Action Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	run	
18	People & Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	teddy		Action Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	play	
19	People & Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	friend		Action Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	open	
20	People & Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	name of sibling		Action Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	look	
21	Food & Drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	milk		Describing Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	big	
22	Food & Drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	water		Describing Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	small	
23	Food & Drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	juice		Describing Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	hot	
24	Food & Drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	apple		Describing Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	cold	
25	Food & Drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	banana		Describing Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	dirty	
26	Food & Drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	biscuit		Describing Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	clean	
27	Food & Drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	bread		Describing Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	happy	
28	Food & Drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	cheese		Describing Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	sad	
29	Food & Drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	spoon		Describing Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	loud	
30	Food & Drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	cup		Describing Words	<input type="checkbox"/>	quiet	
31	Food & Drink	<input type="checkbox"/>			Describing Words	<input type="checkbox"/>		



Game of the Month: Picture Lotto Game

Take turns naming items (dog, car, apple).

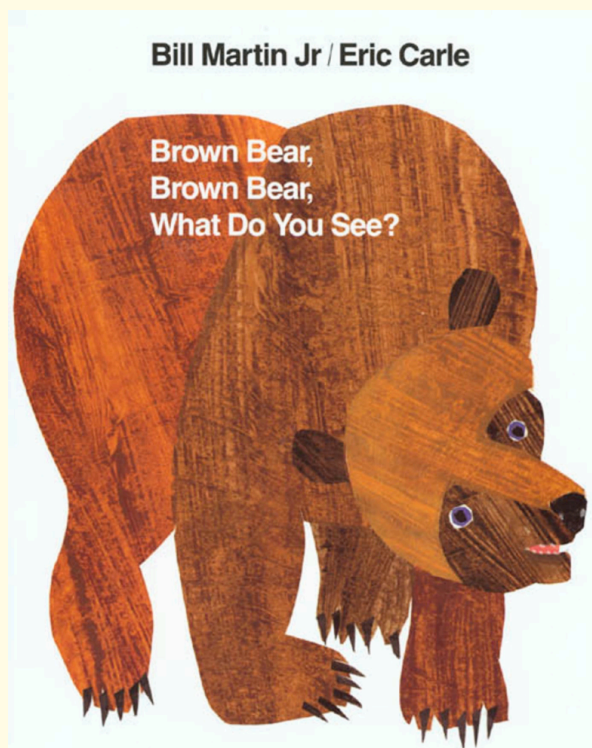
Encourage phrases: “I got a dog!”

Expand on their words: Child says “dog” →
you say, “Yes, a big brown dog.”

Boosts: vocabulary, sentence expansion,
turn-taking.

Tip: Encourage your child to describe too!

Book of the Month: “Brown Bear Brown Bear, What Do You See?” by Bill Martin Jr. & Eric Carle



**Repetition and rhythm encourage children to join in.
Clear animal names and colours support vocabulary.
Perfect for predicting and memory skills.**

Did You Know?

By age 2, most children can say around 50 words and start combining them into short sentences.

Every child is different—but consistent exposure to language helps unlock those words.



Ask the Therapist



“My child is nearly 2 and still isn’t saying words. Should I be worried?”

Not necessarily—some children are “late bloomers.” But if your child isn’t using gestures, making sounds, or showing progress, it’s worth checking in with a speech therapist. Early advice can give you peace of mind and set your child up for success.



**Want to ask something next month?
Click here to submit your question**



Quick Links & Contact Info



Book an Initial Consultation or Assessment:
<https://shorturl.at/Wq7uA>



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