Language Development
Information for parents and carers
Children’s language at 2-3 years and when to talk to a Speech and Language Therapist

This leaflet has been designed and produced by Nottingham
Children’s Speech & Language Therapy Service

Stapleford Care Centre
Church Street
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8DB

Tel: 0115 8835187

August 2013

This document is also available in other languages and formats upon request

Su richiesta, questo documento è disponibile in altre lingue e in altri formati.
Sur demande, ce document peut être fourni en d’autres langues et formats.
Na życzenie, dokument ten można uzyskać w innych językach i formatach.

Language Development
Information for parents and carers
Children’s language at 2-3 years and when to talk to a Speech and Language Therapist

This leaflet has been designed and produced by Nottingham
Children’s Speech & Language Therapy Service

Stapleford Care Centre
Church Street
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8DB

Tel: 0115 8835187

August 2013

This document is also available in other languages and formats upon request

Su richiesta, questo documento è disponibile in altre lingue e in altri formati.
Sur demande, ce document peut être fourni en d’autres langues et formats.
Na życzenie, dokument ten można uzyskać w innych językach i formatach.

Language Development
Information for parents and carers
Children’s language at 2-3 years and when to talk to a Speech and Language Therapist

This leaflet has been designed and produced by Nottingham
Children’s Speech & Language Therapy Service

Stapleford Care Centre
Church Street
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8DB

Tel: 0115 8835187

August 2013

This document is also available in other languages and formats upon request

Su richiesta, questo documento è disponibile in altre lingue e in altri formati.
Sur demande, ce document peut être fourni en d’autres langues et formats.
Na życzenie, dokument ten można uzyskać w innych językach i formatach.

Language Development
Information for parents and carers
Children’s language at 2-3 years and when to talk to a Speech and Language Therapist

This leaflet has been designed and produced by Nottingham
Children’s Speech & Language Therapy Service

Stapleford Care Centre
Church Street
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8DB

Tel: 0115 8835187

August 2013

This document is also available in other languages and formats upon request

Su richiesta, questo documento è disponibile in altre lingue e in altri formati.
Sur demande, ce document peut être fourni en d’autres langues et formats.
Na życzenie, dokument ten można uzyskać w innych językach i formatach.

Language Development
Information for parents and carers
Children’s language at 2-3 years and when to talk to a Speech and Language Therapist

This leaflet has been designed and produced by Nottingham
Children’s Speech & Language Therapy Service

Stapleford Care Centre
Church Street
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8DB

Tel: 0115 8835187

August 2013

This document is also available in other languages and formats upon request

Su richiesta, questo documento è disponibile in altre lingue e in altri formati.
Sur demande, ce document peut être fourni en d’autres langues et formats.
Na życzenie, dokument ten można uzyskać w innych językach i formatach.

Language Development
Information for parents and carers
Children’s language at 2-3 years and when to talk to a Speech and Language Therapist

This leaflet has been designed and produced by Nottingham
Children’s Speech & Language Therapy Service

Stapleford Care Centre
Church Street
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8DB

Tel: 0115 8835187

August 2013

This document is also available in other languages and formats upon request

Su richiesta, questo documento è disponibile in altre lingue e in altri formati.
Sur demande, ce document peut être fourni en d’autres langues et formats.
Na życzenie, dokument ten można uzyskać w innych językach i formatach.

Language Development
Information for parents and carers
Children’s language at 2-3 years and when to talk to a Speech and Language Therapist

This leaflet has been designed and produced by Nottingham
Children’s Speech & Language Therapy Service

Stapleford Care Centre
Church Street
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8DB

Tel: 0115 8835187

August 2013

This document is also available in other languages and formats upon request

Su richiesta, questo documento è disponibile in altre lingue e in altri formati.
Sur demande, ce document peut être fourni en d’autres langues et formats.
Na życzenie, dokument ten można uzyskać w innych językach i formatach.

Language Development
Information for parents and carers
Children’s language at 2-3 years and when to talk to a Speech and Language Therapist

This leaflet has been designed and produced by Nottingham
Children’s Speech & Language Therapy Service

Stapleford Care Centre
Church Street
Stapleford
Nottingham
NG9 8DB

Tel: 0115 8835187

August 2013
How you can help develop your child’s speech and language skills

- Find a quiet room, switch off the TV or background music, especially when playing with your child or reading a story.
- Use short sentences, talk about what your child is looking at.
- Your child needs to hear words lots of times, in different situations, before they understand them fully.
- Try not to ask your child to say words, e.g. “say car”. They may feel under pressure to talk and not want to.

Games to play

- Identify a few familiar objects and ask your child to find one of them. Use gestures to support your words together with pointing/miming to help your child understand what you are saying.
- When tidying up, tell your child where to put items, add a few surprises e.g. “Put the puzzle in the bath”.
- When reading books, wait to see if your child names pictures Some books have repetitive phrases e.g. “Where’s Spot?”
- When singing and rhyming help your child to join in with the actions.
- When playing games such as building a tower, playing with bubbles, pushing a car or skittles, start the game with the phrase ‘ready, steady, go’. Help your child wait for the word ‘go’ or you could try waiting to see if your child says it themselves.

You should contact your local speech and language therapy team again if your child

- Has difficulty understanding the names of objects or simple instructions
- Has stopped learning new words
- Shows no interest in communicating or involving you in what they are doing
- Is making very little or no progress with their language
- Has a range of single words but is not putting words together (by 2½ years)
- Is very difficult to understand much of the time
- Drools persistently
- Has difficulty swallowing food or drink
- Begins stammering

Other sources of support:
www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk
www.ican.org.uk
www.rcslt.org
Local Sure Start children’s centres:
www.nottinghamshire.familyservicedirectory.org.uk
www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/childrenscentres