



The Centered Space

Parents of under-5s

Should I **worry**?

What most children are doing at each age, and when a check-in with a speech pathologist is worth it. These are general markers, not a test. "Around" means around.

A baby taking it all in.

— What are most children doing at each age?

1

12 months

- Understands about 10 words
- Responds to their name
- Babbles, uses gestures, says a few words

2

2 years

- Says more than 50 words
- Puts two words together
- Strangers understand about half

3

3 years

- Four to five words in a sentence
- Asks what, where and who
- Strangers understand about three quarters

4

4 years

- Longer sentences with and, but, because
- Describes recent events, asks lots of questions
- Strangers understand almost everything

5

5 years

- Well-formed sentences, understood by most people
- Tells a short story with a beginning, middle and end
- May still mix up s, r, l and th

— The honest answer

Most variation is normal: every child develops at their own pace. And when support would help, starting earlier tends to make things easier. You do not have to choose between relaxing and panicking.

— Worth a conversation, at any age



Words that have faded

Words your child used to say and now does not.



Stuttering that sticks around

More than a few months, or your child reacts to it.



Hard to understand

Family at 3, or strangers at 4.



Your gut says something

That is reason enough to ask.

— What does a check-in look like?

A conversation, not a verdict. We listen to what you are noticing, spend time with your child, and give you a clear picture of what is typical and what could use support.

Speech pathology and the NDIS. NDIS funding may cover speech pathology where it aligns with the participant's goals and approved plan. Not all NDIS plans include speech pathology supports. **Plan-managed and self-managed plans.** We are not NDIS-registered, and we say so honestly if we are not the right fit.

— How do I ask?



Join the Gold Coast waitlist on the page below, or scan the code. Liz, our NDIS specialist, calls you within one business day. Tell her what you are noticing.

Liz, our NDIS specialist

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Sources: Speech Pathology Australia, Communication Milestones (2018); Flipsen (2006), intelligibility to unfamiliar listeners.