

- **Toe walking:** This is where a child walks on their tip toes. There are several different reasons why this might occur and it often runs in families. If this interferes with daily activities then advice from the CYPIT Advice line would be recommended.

Common Variations in Speech and Language Development

Speech

Children develop speech sounds over time, with words gradually sounding more like the adult version.

A simple guide of how those sounds develop is provided for your information.

Language

There is a wide normal variation in the rate at which children learn to talk. Many children will catch up over time given the language stimulation that they need to progress. Lots of people can help your child's language development to include:

- You and your family and friends
- Your child's pre-school or nursery environment
- Your child's friends and playmates

A simple guide to how language skills develop is provided for your information.

Steps to Talking

A more detailed breakdown of the developmental stages in speech and language development can be found in:

- Appendix 3 -ECAT Early Communication and Language Monitoring Progress
- or at www.wordsforlife.org.uk

If your child does not seem to be at the level you would expect, try and build their skills at the level below their age range, or look at the advice sheets on speech and language within the toolkit for ideas to help move them on:

Baby Talk, Babble 1, Babble 2, Basic Communication Strategies, Toddler Talk, Pre School Talk, Helping Children with unclear speech.

Bilingualism: One Language or Two?

Many children will grow up hearing different languages that they will learn to use within their families or within their learning environment.

A simple guide is provided to help answer any questions you may have about your child learning more than one language Bilingualism: One Language or Two?