

# We Can Help Families

## Speech, Language & Communication



How your child communicates is really important for their life, including school, jobs and friendships

We've put together our top tips for speech, language and communication as part of our We Can Help campaign. Simply visit: [www.oldham.gov.uk/talk](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/talk) for links...



- 1. Babies and pre-school** – Parents and carers play the most important part in helping their child's communication and talking in everyday life. Children learn through daily life, play and reading together. Please try to reduce the time you spend looking at your phone or tablet whilst with a baby or young child. How you look at, read with, speak and react to the world with your child helps them to develop.

Check out the Greater Manchester [Top Ten Tips for Talking](#) , [50 Things To Do](#) Before You're Five, and Oldham's [Language Skills Guide](#). Or for tips and videos about language and bonding see the excellent [BBC Tiny Happy People](#).

ICAN also have great [resources for parents](#) including a guide to stages of language development and a poster to [check progress](#). And for information about stammering, take a look at [Stamma](#).

If your child attends an [early years setting](#), have a chat with their key worker about your concerns. They are there to help and support your child and work together in partnership with families to develop an action plan using the [WellComm Toolkit](#).

If your child does not attend a setting, or you have any concerns about your child's speech, language and communication development, you can also speak to [Oldham's Right Start Team](#).



- 2. Primary school** – As your child begins their journey through primary school they will continue to develop their understanding of longer instructions and questions. They will use more complex vocabulary, longer sentences and stories, develop more speech sounds and extend their conversation skills. Take the opportunity to read together.

ICAN has great [resources for parents](#) including a guide to stages of language development in primary school and a poster to [check progress](#). For information about stammering, visit [Stamma](#)

If you are concerned about your child's speech and language development, please speak to their class teacher or the SENCo. You can work together to decide the best next steps for your child. For confidential advice you can also text Oldham [ChatHealth](#) on [07507 330499](#).

The [Oldham Speech and Language Therapy Service](#) work with families, schools and teachers. This service is for children who need a higher level of support.



- 3. Secondary school** – Language development in secondary years is more gradual. Your young person will use language to solve more complex problems and develop a wider vocabulary. They will explain more complex ideas and use language socially in a more sophisticated way. Your young person's form tutor or the school's SENCo will be able to discuss any concerns you have.

ICAN have great [resources for parents](#) including a guide to stages of language development in 11-17 year olds and a poster to [check progress](#). For information about stammering, go to [Stamma](#). And for confidential advice you can text Oldham [ChatHealth](#) on [07507 330499](#).

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