

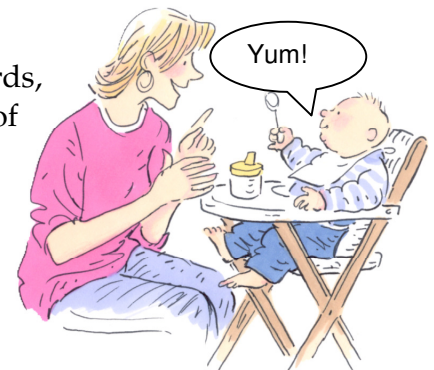
Baby's First Word

Baby's First Word is a Talk To Your Baby initiative to encourage parents to communicate with their baby by asking them to listen out for, and report on, their child's first word. Talk To Your Baby wants to engage libraries, nurseries and other early years settings to create a Baby's First Word display, and help promote the importance and pleasure of communicating with children from birth.

Talk To Your Baby has designed a series of templates to help you run Baby's First Word. This pack contains:

1. A hand-out for parents introducing Baby's First Word, with a place for them to report on their baby's first word, and the story behind the word (page 3)
2. A poster advertising Baby's First Word (page 4)
3. An information sheet for parents on babies' first words (page 5)
4. A sample press release, which you can adapt (page 6)
5. A reporting-back form so you can easily share your words and stories with Talk To Your Baby (page 7)

We know parents are more likely to remember and share first cute words, rather than the first actual word spoken, but that's okay. The purpose of Baby's First Word is to promote the enjoyment of communicating with young children, and to remind parents of the vital role they play in helping their child learn to talk. For this reason we're particularly interested in the story behind the word, which often illustrates the influence of parents. An Australian chef, for example, reports his daughter's first word as "yum".



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Other material to help you

The Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists has produced a leaflet for parents called 'Help your child to talk', which outlines when and how children learn to talk and may be useful for your own background information, or to hand out to parents. Download the leaflet at

www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk/Parentsresources.html

Talk to Your Baby has created a series of quick tips for parents on how to help children develop good language and communication skills. The tips are available in ten languages and cover topics such as sharing books with babies and the sociable newborn. Download the tips at

www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk/quicktips.html



Making it happen

Follow these steps to set up Baby's First Word.

Step one

Invite parents to report on their baby's first word at your next parents-and-babies session. Print the hand-out for parents on page 3 and have copies available for those keen to get involved. Also print the poster on page 4 (you could use a photocopier to blow it up to A3) and pin it to your notice board.

Step two

Once you've collected several words and stories, create a Baby's First Word display. Have the hand-out available for other parents to take away and fill in. Photocopy the information sheet for parents on page 5, and attach copies to your display.

Step three

After a while you might like to get in touch with your local media (see the sample press release on page 6), or give out prizes for the most unusual or funniest words. Or you could simply share the words and stories you've collected at a parents-and-babies session.

Step four

Share your words and stories with Talk To Your Baby, by using the reporting-back form on page 7. You can email the form to talktoyourbaby@literacytrust.org.uk or fax it to 020 7587 1411. Talk To Your Baby would like to highlight selected words and stories on our website, so before you send your form, please ask parents for their permission to use their examples.

We hope this pack contains everything you need to successfully run Baby's First Word in your library or early years setting. If you have any queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Talk To Your Baby team.

Liz Attenborough
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Tel: 020 7587 1842

Baby's First Word has been created in association with the Early Years Library Network, Bookstart and Youth Libraries Group.

Your Baby's First Word

What was your baby's first word or what will it be? The name of an object, such as "book" or "teddy", or someone in your family?

We're setting up a display to share first words with other families, so why not use the form below to tell us your baby's first word? There's also a space for you to tell us the story behind your baby's first word, if there is one. Your child's first word may have come from a favourite book or song for example.

It doesn't matter if your baby's first word was only intelligible to you or your family. It still counts. When babies say their first words, usually around 18 months, their speech is by no means perfect. The important thing is that after lots of one-to-one interaction with you, your baby has learned to use the right sounds to tell you something. It's an amazing achievement, so why not share it with others?

Listen out for your baby's first word, fill in the form below and we'll add it to our Baby's First Word display.



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My baby's name _____

My baby's age _____

My baby's first word _____

The story behind my baby's first word _____



“Where would we be without words? Every baby’s first word is a special moment to celebrate. So join in and tell us about your baby’s first word.”

Lorraine Kelly

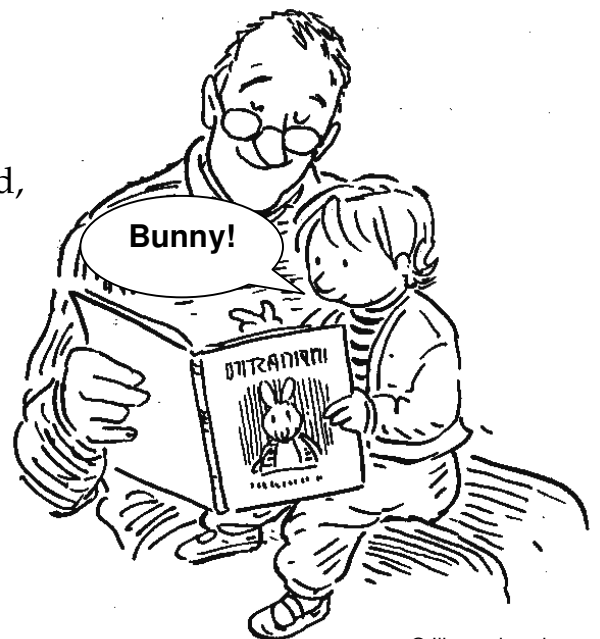
Baby’s First Word

What will your baby’s first word be?

Your child’s first word is a significant milestone. After lots of one to one interaction with you, and practice with sounds and mouth movements, your baby has learned to use the right sounds to tell you something. It’s an amazing achievement, so why not share it with us?

Tell us your baby’s first word

Use the form below to share your baby’s first word, or see a member of staff to find out more.



National
Literacy
Trust

Talk To Your Baby

www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk

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Your baby's first word

Information for parents

Most babies say their first words between 12 and 18 months, usually the names of people or things they know well.

Your child's first word is a significant milestone. After lots of one to one interaction with you, and practice with sounds and mouth movements, your baby has learned to use the right sounds to tell you something.

Of course, her speech isn't perfect yet. You may be the only person who understands her first words. But over time, with lots of interaction and good examples of talk, your child's speech will become clearer.

By the time your baby utters her first word, she can understand much more than she can say. Your baby has been communicating with you from birth, using gestures, expressive babbling and facial expressions to get her point across.

Your child will continue to use these tried and tested techniques while she comes to grips with language. Don't be impatient for more words at this stage, and don't ask her to imitate words. If she says something incorrectly, say it back the right way. For example, if she says "Gog," you could say, "That's right, it's a dog."



The best way to help your child learn to talk is to give her lots of opportunities to play with you, sing songs, share stories and talk with you one to one. Listening is vital too – give your baby or toddler time to respond to you. With lots of interaction, your child will learn to communicate effectively.

For more advice on how to help your child develop good language and communication skills, visit www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk



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Try these tips to encourage first words:

- Get on the floor, and play face to face.
- Point at and name familiar things.
- When you think you've heard a word, assume that you have – and repeat it.
- Say what you're doing, in simple phrases "Rolling the ball to Mummy", "Rolling the ball to Sam."
- Use gesture when you name things, like food and drinks.
- Say the name of the dog or the cat when you stroke them.
- Listen out when you're reading your books aloud. The first words might include "monkey" or "roar!"

Sample press release

Adapt the following press release to tell your local media about Baby's First Word.

Please let us know if you've been in touch with the press, by contacting our Information and Communication Officer, on 020 7820 6265 or talktoyourbaby@literacytrust.org.uk. We'd love to receive photocopies of any press clippings. Send clippings to Talk To Your Baby, National Literacy Trust, 68 South Lambeth Road, London, SW8 1RL. Many thanks.

Fabulous First Words

"Teddy", "bye-bye" and "book." [Use your own examples] What do all these words have in common? They're the first words uttered by young members of [name of library or nursery etc].

The [library or nursery etc] is asking parents to listen out for and share their child's first word, to promote the importance and pleasure of communicating with children from birth.

[Head Librarian or Head Teacher etc] [name] says, "A baby's first word is a significant milestone on the path to becoming a talker. After lots of one to one interaction with parents and siblings, and practice at making sounds, a child's first word shows they have learnt to use the right sounds to tell you something. It's an amazing achievement, and well worth celebrating."

The [library or nursery etc] has set up a display of first words. ["_____"] was the most frequently uttered first word. The most unusual word was ["_____"], said by [name and age of baby]. [Add the story behind the word, if there is one].

The library is also offering parents information on how to help their child develop good talking and listening skills, with support from Talk To Your Baby, the early language campaign of the National Literacy Trust.

Talk To Your Baby Manager Liz Attenborough says, "Learning to talk is one of the most important and complex skills a child accomplishes. It seems to happen naturally but in fact, parents and carers have a very important role to play. Babies learn to talk by listening to and copying their parents, so it's vital that parents and carers talk to their babies as much as possible.

"Equally, parents need to listen and give their babies time to respond to them – even if the response is just a string of noises. Like adults, children are much more likely to communicate when they know someone is interested in what they have to say."

ENDS

For more information contact [add your details]. To arrange an interview with Liz Attenborough contact Talk To Your Baby on 020 7820 6265 or talktoyourbaby@literacytrust.org.uk.

Find out more at www.talktoyourbaby.org.uk

Baby's First Word Reporting-back form

Please use this form to share a selection of first words and their stories with Talk To Your Baby. You can email the form to talktoyourbaby@literacytrust.org.uk, fax it to 020 7587 1411 or post it to Talk To Your Baby, 68 South Lambeth Road, London, SW8 1RL. We would like to highlight selected words and stories on our website, so before you send your form, please ask parents for their permission to use their examples. Many thanks.

Name of library/nursery etc _____ Name of BFW organiser _____

Address _____

Tel. _____ Email _____

<p>Baby's name _____</p> <p>Baby's age _____</p> <p>Baby's first word _____</p> <p>Story behind the word _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Baby's name _____</p> <p>Baby's age _____</p> <p>Baby's first word _____</p> <p>Story behind the word _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>Baby's name _____</p> <p>Baby's age _____</p> <p>Baby's first word _____</p> <p>Story behind the word _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Baby's name _____</p> <p>Baby's age _____</p> <p>Baby's first word _____</p> <p>Story behind the word _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

The most common word to date is _____ How many parents have taken part? _____

Any feedback or comments? _____
