Signs of Language Delay in Toddlers

Identifying language delays in toddlers can be tricky, but early intervention is key. Watch for common signs to support your child's communication development.

by toybuddy



Reliance on Gestures

Gestures Over Words

At two years old, toddlers should use both gestures and words to communicate.

Solely Gesturing

If your child relies only on gestures, it may signal a speech delay.

Limited Vocabulary

- Limited Words
 - Two-year-olds should say at least 50 words spontaneously.
- Mimicking Words

 If they primarily mimic words, it could indicate a delay.





Difficulty Following Instructions



One-Step

Toddlers should follow one-step commands by 18 months.



Two-Step

By two years, they should understand and follow two-step directions.



Struggling

Difficulty following simple instructions may be a sign of a language comprehension delay.



Identifying Objects

Point to Body Parts

At two years old, children should point to body parts when asked.

Recognize Objects

They should also recognize and point to objects in books.

Name Familiar Objects

They should name familiar objects when prompted.

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Unclear Speech

Unclear Pronunciation

It's normal for toddlers to have unclear pronunciation.

Understanding Speech

Parents should understand at least 50% of what their two-year-old says.

3 — Mostly Unintelligible

If their speech is mostly unintelligible, it may be a sign of a delay.

Seeking Help

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Hearing Assessment

The first step is a hearing assessment to rule out hearing loss.

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Speech-Language Therapist

Consult a speech-language therapist for an evaluation.

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Early Intervention

Early intervention makes speech delays easier to overcome.



Next Steps

If you're concerned about your child's language development, seek professional guidance. Early intervention is crucial for their communication skills and overall development.

