

Developing First Words & Phrases

5 Steps for Children with Language Delays



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1 - Complete an Assessment of the Whole Child

This includes assessing self-care and problem behaviors.

Before working on getting a child to talk, we must first assess not just his or her language, but the whole child. Complete my FREE 10-minute BECA assessment now at marybarbera.com/assessment

2 - Assess Sounds, Words, Word Approximations and/or Phrases

Complete a language assessment by setting a timer for 15, 30, or 60 minutes and record any sounds, word approximations, words, or phrases the child says during this time.

3 - Formulate a List of Sounds, Word Approximations, or Words That You or Others Have Heard Your Child or Client Say

Keep a running list of words in alphabetical order. This list can be hung on the fridge and/or kept in a binder at school so everyone knows what word approximations or words to practice throughout the day.

4 - Use 1 Word x 3 Strategy

Say one word, slowly and with an animated tone 3x before delivering an item/reinforcer

If your child doesn't talk much, hold an item towards your face, say one word slowly and with an animated tone up to 3x before delivering the item. You can use this strategy throughout the day.

5 - Carefully Move to Phrases

If your child is saying words but not phrases, it's important not to rush into teaching them to speak in longer utterances that are not natural. Avoid teaching carrier phrases until your child has lots of spontaneous words and can request things with one-word utterances.

Find your starting point and learn how to increase language and decrease tantrums by completing this [free 10-minute digital assessment today!](#)