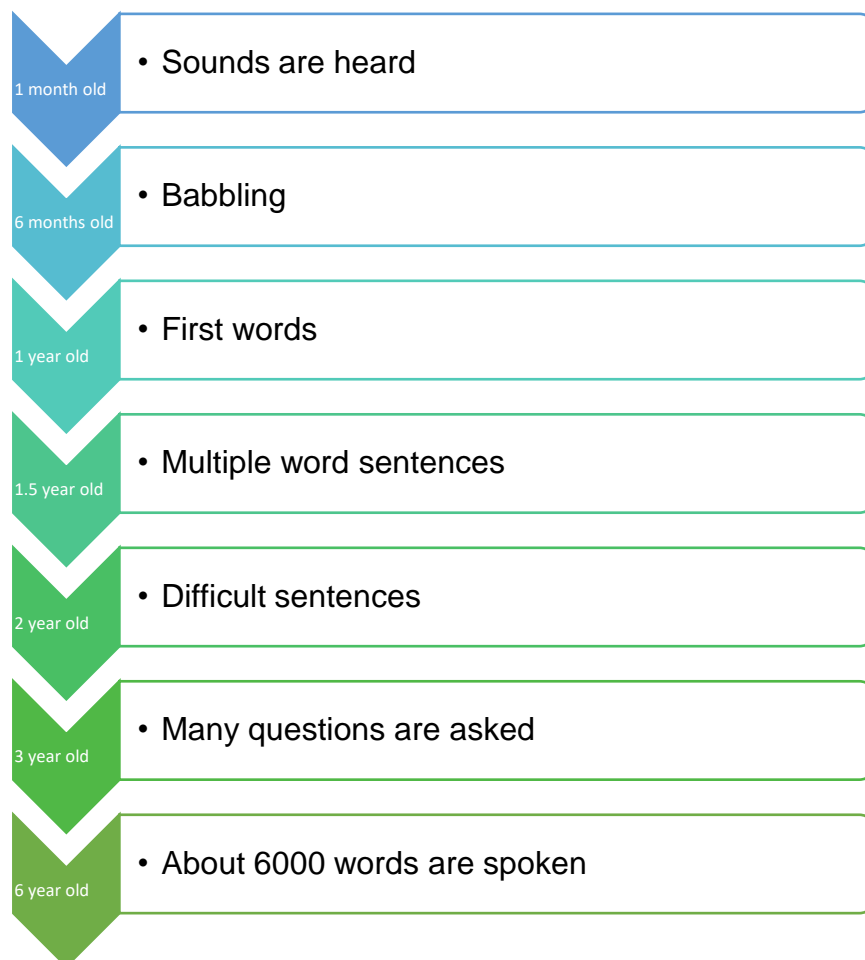




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How children learn to speak

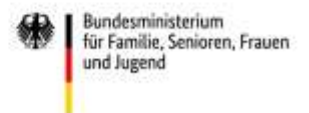
Babies can hear and distinguish language very well. When they are about six months old, they prefer hearing their family language. Every child learns to speak at their own pace. Sometimes the children can speak faster. Sometimes they learn to speak slowly. This is completely normal.



Eine Kooperation von:



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It is particularly important that you give the child many opportunities to hear their mother tongue. If children can play long and undisturbed, then their brain can learn very well. If an adult speaks to the child, he or she can learn to speak particularly well.

Adults should also explain a lot to the children.

1. Example: In the evening the mother takes the child to sleep

Mother: "Now I'm taking off your trousers. We'll open the button first. Then we slip out of the right leg, then out of the left leg."
(Mother takes off the child's trousers.)

Mother: "Now we pull the sweater over the head. First I pull your arms out of the sleeve.
(Pause) Now the head."
(The sweater is taken off.)

Mother: "Now comes the underwear. We are now taking off the undershirt and underpants.
(Pause) Now we put on fresh underpants and a fresh undershirt."
(The underwear is changed.)

Mother: "Next come the pyjama pants. First we slip into the left (pause) and then into the right leg."
(Mother puts on pyjama pants.)

Mother: "Now it's time for the top. First the head and then the arms."
(Mother puts on the top.)



Children also love it when adults talk to them about what is important to them. Here is another example:

2. Example: Child paints a picture

Father: "I see you take a red pencil. You paint a lot of colourful circles. (Pause) Now you take a green pencil. (Pause) Your picture will be very colourful. You have used a lot of colours. Let's count how many there are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. Seven different colours! I think your picture is very beautiful!"

Tip: It is particularly important that the adult speaks slowly. It describes everything that he or the child does.

What does the child learn from it?

Example 1:

The child learns words about:

- Clothes (trousers, sweaters, underwear, ...)
- Body parts (head, legs, arms, ...)
- Sequence (then, next, at the end, ...)

Example 2:

The child learns words about:

- Colours (red, green, ...)
- Shapes (circle, ...)
- Numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)

Children who learn two languages take longer than children who speak only one language. This is completely normal. If the child speaks his or her family language well, he or she can easily learn a second language, for example German. It is important for the child to hear this



second language a lot and to have the opportunity to speak the new language. A visit to the kindergarten is therefore important. There, educators and other children talk to your child.

Sometimes it happens that the child mixes languages. This means that the child speaks both languages in one sentence, for example German and English (child: "Ich gehe to bed.") This is completely normal and represents an important learning step.

If, for example, you still make mistakes yourself when you speak German, then it is better to speak to your child in your family language! The educators speak German with your child. That's enough. That is why it is important that your child goes to kindergarten regularly.

Children learn to speak all by themselves. They can also learn several languages very easily! You just have to give them time to play. You have to talk to them a lot. They also have to be able to hear the languages a lot.

This particularly helps the child in the process of learning to speak:

- Listen to your child.
- Sing with your child.
- Look at picture books with your child.
- Read to your child.
- Let your child play a lot.
- No tablet, smartphone or television! Children only learn to speak from other people.
- Explain a lot to your child.

There is a city library in every town. There you can borrow books and other media for free. There often are also board games there. These can be played there or borrowed.