



# Family News

## Summer 2012

The Family Place  
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Norwich, VT 05055

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[www.FamilyPlaceVT.org](http://www.FamilyPlaceVT.org)  
find us on facebook

### Talk, Baby!

#### Language Development in Toddlers

All parents wait – often impatiently – for their child's first word. Will it be Mama? Dada? Ball? Whatever it turns out to be, it's a major milestone to be recorded and shared with family and friends.

Some children, though, experience a delayed start to speaking; their first few words aren't followed by increasingly regular conversation, or parents might notice that other adults can't understand the majority of their child's words, even if mom and dad know exactly what their child means.

There are several causes for speech delay. If a child's hearing registers below normal levels - either because of fluid buildup or birth defect - that could lead to delayed speech. Certain developmental issues or illnesses may also be the cause of speech delay. And, as speech therapist Sarah Schneider points out, "Sometimes mom and dad are so good at anticipating what the child wants that the child never has to say the word."

There's plenty of variation in the progress towards speech, but the general guidelines indicate:

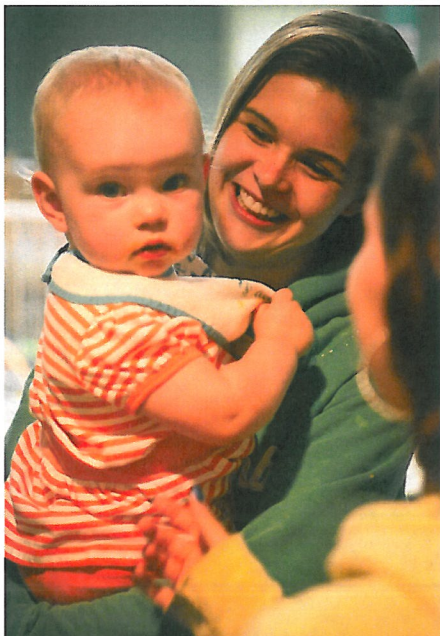
- ~ children usually speak their first word between 10-13 months
- ~ by 18 months children have about 15 words
- ~ by age 2 children use about 50 words
- ~ by age 4 they are on their way to 1000 words

Schneider also points out that intelligibility is important to gauge as well;

- ~ children of 18 months should be able to be understood by someone other than their caregivers at least 25% of the time
- ~ 19-24 month olds should be understood 25-50% of the time
- ~ at 36 months old a child should be clear about 80% of the time

However, language development can vary widely; guidelines aren't meant to make parents panic, but they provide a useful way to determine the questions you might want to ask your pediatrician.

If you have any concerns about your child's language development, call your healthcare provider. In the meantime, Schneider offers a few tips for parents on promoting language development at our website [www.FamilyPlaceVT.org](http://www.FamilyPlaceVT.org).





## Our Mission

The Family Place  
Parent Child Center  
supports the positive  
growth and development  
of all parents  
by offering services  
that encourage families  
to build upon  
their strengths



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## Hot Days? Cool Snacks! Smoothy Surprise

Add your child's favorite frozen berries  
to a cup of milk and toss it in the blender.  
Frozen bananas work well for a thicker drink.  
The surprise? Throw in a handful of  
spinach for extra nutrition!

We need volunteers to make 2012 our best celebration ever!



## the Tenth Annual Gingerbread Festival

Saturday, December 8, 2012

We need gingerbread houses!  
Compete in one of three categories:  
~ Professionals  
~ Adults  
~ Children

It may be hot,  
but now is the time  
to start planning your  
gingerbread house!

Check our website  
for more details  
on how you can  
be involved

Funds raised will  
support families  
in the Upper Valley  
and beyond

~ home visits  
~ playgroups  
~ family support  
~ parent education



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