Don’t worry he’ll grow out of it: Slow to talk or language delayed?

Susan Balandin
What is normal?

• Babies communicate from birth
• Prelinguistic communication 0 – 8 months
  – Reflexive vocalisations 0 - 2 months
  – Cooing and laughing 2 - 4 months
  – Vocal Play (lip smacking, squealing, raspberries) 4 - 6 months
  – Canonical Babbling (syllables with vowels, mamama, dididi 6+ months
  – Jargon (conversational babble) 10+ months
First words and more

- Around 1, often mixed in with jargon/babbling
  - One word can mean many things
  - Substantive, relational, social
12 - 18/24 months

- Intentions
  - Labeling
  - Answering
  - Requesting Action
  - Requesting answer
  - Calling/addressing
  - Greeting
  - Repeating /imitating
  - Practicing
Two Word Utterances

- Second year 18 – 26 months a language spurt 50 - 300 words
- Semantic relations -
  - Ball roll, daddy gone, baby book, pretty ball, give doggie
- 75%; of what a 3 year old says should be understood by those who don’t know him/her
Sounds

• 2 – 3 years
  – /m/ /n/ /ŋ/ /d/ /k/ /g/ /p/ /w/
  – /r/ /l/ around 5 yrs
These come later some not until 7 or 8 years
  /s/ /sh/ /z/ /ch/ /f/ /th/

• Gradually sounds become more complex in syllables and blends are used
Space and time

- Starts to develop around 2 years and goes on until around 11 years
  - In front of, next to
Other bits

- Pronouns
  - I me you
  - Third person later up to 5 years
- Questions
- Yes/no
- Wh..
- Pragmatics
- Turn taking
- Fluency
Understanding

- Expectations
- Supporting with looking
- Supporting with gesture
- What makes us think there is a problem?
Is there a problem?

- At risk children
- Birth factors, c socio economic factors, maybe prematurity?
- Family history of problems including literacy difficulties
- HEARING
What makes you think a child can’t hear?
What might you do about it?
What do you do if you are worried?
Activities

• Communication temptation- arranging the environment
• Follow the child’s lead
• Build social routines
• Prompts
• Models
• Natural Consequences