Typical development of speech

**Young babies (pre-linguistic stage)**
- Makes eye contact with those who are speaking
- Uses facial expressions to interact with others
- Uses noises to communicate emotions

**12 months plus**
- Uses one or more words
- Points to something and names it

**18 months plus**
- Learns up to 10 new words a day
- Puts two or three word sentences together
- Starts to use some grammatical constructions

**2 years plus**
- Learns new words very quickly
- Starts to include pronouns: I, me, you
- Starts to string nouns and verbs together into sentences
- Begins to use plurals
- Uses questions frequently

**3 years plus**
- People other than parents can understand speech
- Begins to hold sustained conversations
- Adapts tone, speech patterns and words depending on who she is talking with
- Says name and his age
- Talks to self while playing

**4 years plus**
- Can narrate a sequence of events (‘First we ..., then we ...’)
- Uses language with his peers to share, take turns, squabble
- Starts to use language to describe other people’s emotions (empathy)
- Ask lots of questions
- Speech clearly understandable, with few mistakes

**5 years plus**
- Creates properly constructed sentences when speaking
- Has a wide vocabulary
- Can offer opinions during a discussion