Referral criteria for understanding, talking, and communication and interaction for children aged 2;0 to 2;5

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| Age  2;0 -2;5 | Communication and Interaction | Understanding | Talking |
| **No cause for concern** | Pretend play with dolls/ teddies/ miniature objects  Beginning to play alongside other children  Starting to take turns in play with a trusted adult  Enjoys nursery rhymes, action songs and stories  Might seem to ignore adults when they are concentrating  Can use simple gestures like waving, pointing or nodding/shaking their head | Understands lots of words and simple sentences  Follows 2 key word instructions when focused e.g. put dolly in the box | Uses 50 or more words  Starting to join words together e.g. ‘more juice’  Copies lots of words, is interested in learning new words  Pronunciation error common |
| **Monitor and follow up in 3 months if the child:** | Beginning to show some simple pretend play skills when this is modelled  Points, shows interest in others  Is able to attend for a short time | Is able to follow simple instructions in context (e.g. get in the car) and follows commands with 1 key word (e.g. give me the car from a selection of objects) | Uses more than 20 words, even if unclear |
| **Refer to SLT if the child:** | Has fleeting attention and is not very aware of others  Doesn’t share interest or activities with an adult  Has little/no eye-contact  Displays unusual or overly repetitive play/behaviours | Does not follow simple instructions in everyday routines  Does not use or understand pointing or simple gestures such as waving and nodding | Has few or no words or word attempts  Has learned fewer than 2 words in the past month  Started using words but has appeared to lose this skill  Does not babble or make speech-like noises  stammers and I am concerned |