

Domain and goal

- Uses jargon of four or more syllables with the occasional recognisable word

Activities

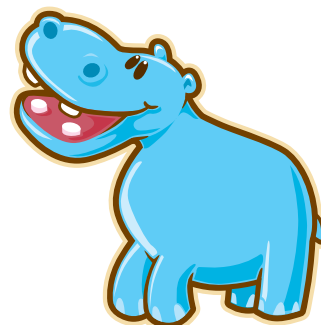
What is jargon?

All children go through a stage called 'jargon' when learning to speak. It is typified by a child using many sounds he has learned and stringing them together with adult-like intonation and inflections. Very little of what the child says is actually intelligible, only the occasional word mixed in with lots of syllables and inflectional patterns.

Children use jargon because they have heard their parents speaking and they know everyone speaks in phrases. However, they do not have enough vocabulary at this stage to speak in phrases, so they use the words they do know and surround them with lots of different sounds/phonemes they have learned to say. This stage can often sound as though the child is speaking a foreign language, they have lots to say to us but with very little vocabulary to actually use. This is a really important developmental stage for your child as it shows he understands that we talk to communicate.

- Listen to your child's spontaneous vocalisations and attempt to write down what they are saying.
- Write down the sounds/phonemes you hear and any words they happen to say among all the syllables.
- Your child should be saying phrases of at least four syllables in length.
- You should also hear some intelligible words.
- Write each utterance on a separate line. You can tell when one phrase ends and another begins because your child will be pausing between phrases, just as he has heard you do when you speak to him.

Now is a good time to check all the phonemes your child is using and update your articulation attainment charts for both vowels and consonants. If your child is talking quite a bit, you may want to use a video camera to record the jargon and listen to it carefully to ensure you are hearing everything he says. Record him during his play or talking to other family members, not when you are trying to talk with him yourself. This is an opportunity for you to practice your skills in writing down a language sample.



Date	What did your child do?