Early language acquisition

Making contact and developing language
Language begins long before your child can speak. In their first year of life Children explore the world and learn to make contact with people. They make their first attempts to communicate and prepare the way for language.

First attempts to communicate
Your child can communicate even before the first word is spoken. When it looks at an object, kicks joyfully or stretches out its hand your child is showing you what it wants. If you respond attentively and promptly, your child learns that its communication is effective and develop pleasure in talking to you.

Offer language!
Your child shows you by looking at something, body language, and vocalisation that it finds something interesting. Talk about those things and events that interest your child. This will help them learn to associate words with situations. Speak in complete sentences, you don't just have to use individual words. Speak with your child in the language you are most familiar with.

Learning in everyday life
It is best to organise everyday life together with your child. Let your children take part in everyday activities so that they learn to familiarise themselves with everyday vocabulary. That includes all activities that you experience anyway, such as getting dressed, bathing, tidying up, cooking, shopping etc.

Media harm language acquisition
Media do not replace language and communication. We advise against the use of media (mobile phones, tablets, television, etc.) in the first few years of life because this severely impairs language development. Even if the technical devices only run on the side, they can distract you and your child from valuable communication situations. It is recommended that children under 3 years of age should not use any media at all. From the age of 3, media consumption media consumption should not exceed 30 minutes a day. Joint activities, playing together, looking at books, reading and singing support and improve language development considerably.

If you are interested in or have questions about speech development, you will find speech therapists at www.logopaedieaustria.at