



# Hearing & Talking Scale (HATS)

For children less than 6 years of age

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/carer name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Select the child's age group. Explain to Parent/Caregiver:

Choose the child's age group. Ask the parent / carer how often they see their child doing these five things: 'Not yet / A little', 'Sometimes' or 'A lot'. Tick the best option. Score using the tally box. USE THE SCORESHEET TO INTERPRET RESULTS.

Age	Does your child... ?	Tick ✓ the box that best describes what the child can do.	Not yet / A little (0)	Sometimes (5)	A lot / Always (10)	Score
4-6 months	React to loud sounds or toys that make sounds (e.g. turns to sound; startles, opens eyes wide)					
	Show they can hear your voice (e.g. looks at you, turns to voice)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Make sounds to show that they are happy (e.g. giggles, squeals)					
	Respond to you with their voice when you talk to them (e.g. coos, squeals)					
	Make different sounds or babble (e.g. ba, ma)					
7-12 months	Turn to where familiar voices/ sounds are coming from (e.g. someone talking on other side of room)					
	Understand words you say a lot (e.g. bye-bye, up, ta)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Use gestures to communicate (e.g. waves or points to show you things)					
	'Take turns', where you talk and they respond with their voice					
	Make sounds that are like talking (e.g. mama, bibibi, dadadada)					
Age 1	Understand simple instructions (e.g. 'sit down' or 'kiss now')					
	Understand simple questions like 'where's your nose?' or 'who's that?'					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy playing games and taking turns with you (e.g. peekaboo, rolls a ball back and forth)					
	Copy words you say or sing along to songs					
	Say some words (e.g. mum, bye, more)					
Age 2	Understand instructions like 'give me your shoe?' or 'point to your nose.'					
	Listen to simple stories and understand what's happening					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy pretend play (e.g. feeds a teddy or a doll, pretends to talk on the phone)					
	Say two words at a time (e.g. 'doggie gone' or 'where nana')					
	Do family or close friends understand what your child says					
Age 3	Respond when you call their name, even when they can't see you					
	Answer questions like 'what do you want for lunch?' or 'who came to visit yesterday?'					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tell you simple stories they know					
	Talk about what they are doing, using sentences like 'Look mum I'm jumping high!'					
	Do people who don't know your child understand what your child says					
Age 4-5yrs 11 months	Follow long instructions like 'brush your teeth and then choose a story'					
	Understand when you read them a story (e.g. asks questions or guesses what's going to happen)					
	Start or join in conversations (e.g. take turns talking)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Make up simple stories or talk about what they did during the day (e.g. what they did at preschool)					
	Do most people understand what your child says					
<b>Total Score</b>						

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**PLUM and HATS Scoring and Interpretation**  
All Ages

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Person administering: \_\_\_\_\_

Administer and score the PLUM and HATS according to the directions in the step by step guide.

**PLUM**

PLUM total score: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark the child's total PLUM score in the chart below, using the row that corresponds to their age in months.

Score	0 to 12	13 to 14	15 to 16	17 to 18	19 to 20	21 to 22	23 to 24	25 to 26	27 to 28	29 to 30	31 to 32	33 to 34	35 to 36	37 to 38	39 to 40
Age months															
6 to 11m	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
12 to 18m	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
19 to 24m	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
25 to 30m	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●
>30m	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●

**PLUM INTERPRETATION**

- Score in the white area: Listening skills are not yet on track. Refer to an Audiologist.
- Score in the shaded area: Listening skills are in the borderline range. Reassess in 3 months.
- Score in the black area: Listening skills are **on track**. Reassess in one year. Earlier if there are concerns.

Provide home strategies to help develop listening and communication skills.

If the parent/carer is worried about their child's listening and understanding skills, refer to an Audiologist.

If they have a high level of concern that their child may need hearing aids, refer to Hearing Australia.

**HATS**

Total score: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark the child's total HATS score in the chart below.

0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

**HATS INTERPRETATION**

- Score in the white area: Communication skills are not yet on track. Refer to a Speech Pathologist.
- Score in the shaded area: Communication skills are in the borderline range. Reassess in 3 months.
- Score in the black area: Communication skills are **on track**. Reassess in 1 year. Earlier if there are concerns.

Provide home strategies to help develop communications skills.

If the parent/carer is worried about their child's language and communication skills, refer to a Speech Pathologist.

**Follow-up actions required:**

- No further action at this time
- Reassess in \_\_\_\_\_ months
- Refer to Speech Pathology
- Refer to Audiology
- Refer to Hearing Australia
- Other