



Speech/ Language Development Milestones

Use the Following as a guide to monitor your child's speech and language development.

Approximate Age	Expressive Language (what is expressed)	Receptive Language (what is understood)
1 month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vocalizes soft/throaty sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Briefly watches and follows objects/people with eyes - Relaxes to/enjoys caregivers attention
2-4 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Verbal play through cooing with vowel sounds - Smiling/ Laughing emerging - Enjoyment in "play" - Varies cry for different needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Turns head towards a voice/sound - Begin to discriminate one sound from another - Recognizes bottle or breast
4-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Babbling begins; sounds typically heard: p, b, m - Vocalizes pleasure and displeasure sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anticipates events (i.e. "peek-a-boo") - Tracks objects and sounds
6-9 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Syllable variation heard (differing consonant and vowel sounds; at least 2 vowel sounds and 2 consonant sounds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in joint attention - Protests by vocalizing
9-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seeks attention from others - Plays simple games - Communicates with gestures - First word approximations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gives/looks at familiar toys and objects upon request - Responds to simple phrases and commands (i.e. "no-no," "bye-bye," "come here")
12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uses mostly nouns, pronouns of me/mine - 10 words by 18 months - Voice up/down babbling, sounds like conversation - Attempts to imitate words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plays with more than one object at a time - Follows routine directions with gestures/cues - Demonstrates appropriate use of familiar toys - Identifies familiar objects from a group
18-24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50 words by 2 years; says more words every month - Produces varying types of consonant and vowel combinations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Points to body parts upon request - Identifies pictures of common objects - Understands verbs when used in context
2-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 300-500 words by age 3 - Using 2-3 words together - Using some 1-2 word questions - Uses k, g, t, d, n, w, h sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understands differences in meaning (i.e. "go/stop") - Follows 2 requests together (i.e. "get book and put on table")
3-4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 600-1000 words by age 4 - Uses 3-4 words together - 80% Intelligible to unfamiliar listeners - New types of words; adverbs, prepositions, past tense, plurals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Answers simple <i>who, what, where</i> questions - Recognizes gender differences, plurals, basic gender pronouns, adjectives, colors
4-5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using longer sentences with more detail - Can stay on topic - Says most all speech sounds accurately; developmental appropriate exceptions: s, r, l, blends, z, sh, ch, th 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pays attention to short stories and can answers simple questions about what was read - Hears and understands most of what is said - Answers simple <i>when, why, if/because</i> questions
5-8 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Uses complete 5-8 word sentences - Using many multi-syllabic words - Can judge correctness of sentences - Uses past and future tense - All speech sounds established by end of age 7-8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understands more complex directions - Understands names of objects and their function