

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