

Speech and Language Developmental Milestones

Birth-6 months

- Startles at loud sounds
- Quiets or smiles when you talk
- Moves eyes in the direction of sounds
- Notices toys that make sounds
- Makes cooing sounds
- Coos and babbles when playing alone or with you
- Makes speech-like babbling sounds, like *pa*, *ba*, and *me*

7 months- 1 year

- Turns and looks in the direction of sounds
- Understands words for common items and people—words like *cup*, *truck*, *juice*, and *daddy*
- Plays games with you, like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake
- Babbles long strings of sounds, like *mimi*, *upup*, *babababa*
- Points to objects and shows them to others
- Says 1 or 2 words, like *hi*, *dog*, *dada*, *mama*, or *uh-oh*

1-2 years

- Points to a few body parts when you ask
- Follows 1-part directions, like "Roll the ball" or "Kiss the baby"
- Points to pictures in a book when you name them
- Uses a lot of new words
- Asks questions, like "What's that?", "Who's that?", and "Where's kitty?"
- Puts 2 words together, like "more apple," "no bed," and "mommy book."

2-3 years

- Understands opposites, like go–stop, big–little, and up–down
- Follows 2-part directions, like "Get the spoon and put it on the table."
- Understands new words quickly
- Uses *k*, *g*, *f*, *t*, *d*, and *n* in words
- Uses two- or three- words to talk about and ask for things
- Asks "Why?"

3-4 years

- Understands words for family-like *brother*, *grandmother*, and *aunt*
- Responds when you call from another room
- Understands some shape and color words
- Answers simple who, what, and where questions
- Uses pronouns- like *I*, *you*, *me*, *we*, and *they*
- Puts 4 words together

4-5 years

- Understands words for order, like *first*, *next*, and *last*
- Understands words for time-like *yesterday*, *today*, and *tomorrow*
- Follows 2-3 step directions
- Says all speech sounds in words. May make mistakes on sounds that are harder to say, like *l*, *s*, *r*, *v*, *z*, *ch*, *sh*, and *th*
- Tells a short story
- Keeps a conversation going

5-7 years

- Answers "when", "why", and "how" questions
- Uses appropriate grammar (prepositions, past tense verbs, pronouns)
- Describes similarities and differences between two items
- Speech is 100% intelligible with minimal sound errors
- Understands most time concepts
- Understands "left" and "right"

7+ years

- Demonstrates inferencing skills to draw conclusions
- Understands idioms
- Follows 4 step oral commands
- Uses more figurative language in conversation "I am in hot water".
- Understands and explains relationships of multiple meaning words
- Uses most parts of speech accurately