



# Speech and Language Milestones

## What should my child be able to do?

### Hearing and Understanding

#### Birth - 3 Months

- Startles to loud sounds.
- Quiets or smiles when spoken to.
- Seems to recognize your voice when crying.
- Increases or decreases sucking behavior in response to sound.

#### 4 - 6 Months

- Moves eyes in direction of sounds.
- Responds to changes in tone of your voice.
- Notices toys that make sounds.
- Pays attention to music.

#### 7 Months - 1 Year

- Enjoys games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake.
- Turns and looks in direction of sounds.
- Listens when spoken to.
- Recognizes words for common items like "cup", "shoe", "book", and "juice".
- Begins to respond to requests (e.g. "Come here" or "Want more?")

#### 1 - 2 Years

- Points to a few body parts when asked.
- Follows simple commands and understands simple questions ("Roll the ball", "Kiss the baby", "Where's your shoe?").
- Listens to simple stories, songs, and rhymes.
- Points to pictures in a book when named.

#### 2 - 3 Years

- Understands differences in meaning ("go-stop", "in-on", "big-little", "up-down").
- Follows two requests ("Get the book and put it on the table").
- Listens to and enjoys hearing stories for longer periods of time.

#### 3 - 4 Years

- Hears you when you call from another room.
- Hears television or radio at the same loudness level as other family members.
- Answers simple, "who?", "what?" "where?" and "why?" questions.

#### 4 - 5 Years

- Pays attention to a short story and answers simple questions about them.
- Hears and understands most of what is said at home and in school.

### Talking

#### Birth - 3 Months

- Makes pleasure sounds.
- Cries differently for different needs.
- Smiles when sees you.

#### 4 - 6 Months

- Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including p, b, and m.
- Chuckles and giggles.
- Vocalizes excitement and displeasure.
- Makes gurgling sounds when left alone and when playing with you

#### 7 Months - 1 Year

- Babbling has both long and short groups of sounds such as "tata upup bibibibi".
- Uses speech or non-crying sounds to get and keep attention.
- Uses gestures to communication (waving, holding arms to be picked up)
- Initiates different speech sounds.
- Has one or two words (hi, dog, dada, mama) around first birthday, although sounds may not be clear.

#### 1 - 2 Years

- Says more words for almost everything.
- Uses some one-or two- word questions ("Where's kitty?", "Go bye bye?", "What's that?").
- Puts two words together ("more cookie", "no juice", "mommy book").
- Uses many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words.

#### 2 - 3 Years

- Has a word for almost everything.
- Uses two- or three- words to talk about and ask for things.
- Uses *k, g, f, t, d*, and *n* sounds.
- Speech is understood by familiar listeners most of the time.
- Often asks for or directs attention to objects by naming them.

#### 3 - 4 Years

- Talks about activities at school or at friend's homes.
- People outside family usually understand child's speech.
- Uses a lot of sentences that have 4 or more words.
- Usually talks easily without repeating syllables and words.

#### 4 - 5 Years

- Uses sentences that give lots of details ("The biggest peach is mine").
- Tells stories that stick to topic.
- Communicates easily with other children and adults.
- Says most sounds correctly except a few like *l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th*.
- Says rhyming words.
- Names some letters and numbers.
- Uses the same grammar as the rest of the family.