

Speech and Language Milestones

What should my child be able to do?	
Hearing and Understanding	Talking
<p>Birth-3 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Startles to loud sounds. Quiets or smiles when spoken to. Seems to recognize your voice and quiets if crying. Increases or decreases sucking behavior in response to sound. 	<p>Birth-3 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes pleasure sounds (cooing, gooing). Cries differently for different needs. Smiles when sees you.
<p>4-6 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moves eyes in direction of sounds. Responds to changes in tone of your voice. Notices toys that make sounds. Pays attention to music. 	<p>4-6 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including <i>p</i>, <i>b</i>, and <i>m</i>. Chuckles and laughs. Vocalizes excitement and displeasure. Makes gurgling sounds when left alone and when playing with you.
<p>7 Months-1 Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoys games like peek-o-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”, or “juice”. Begins to respond to requests (e.g. “Come here” or “Want more?”). 	<p>7 Months-1 Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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). Imitates different speech sounds. Has one or two words (hi, dog, dada, mama) around first birthday, although sounds may not be clear.
<p>One to Two Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>One to Two Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Says more words every month. Uses some one- or two- word questions (“Where kitty?”, “Go bye-bye?”, “What’s that?”). Puts two words together (“more cookie”, “no juice”, “mommy book”). Uses many different consonant sounds of the beginning of words.
<p>Two to Three Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>Two to Three Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Asks why? May stutter on words or sounds.

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What should my child be able to do?

Hearing and Understanding

Talking

Three to Four Years

- Hears you when call from another room.
- Hears television or radio at the same loudness level as other family members.
- Understands words for some colors, like red, blue, and green.
- Understands words for some shapes, like circle and square.
- Understands words for family, like brother, grandmother, and aunt.

Three to Four Years

- Talks about activities at school or at friends' homes.
- Talks about what happened during the day. Uses about 4 sentences at a time.
- People outside of the family usually understand child's speech.
- Answers simple, "who?", "what?", "where?", and "why?" questions.
- Asks when and how questions.
- Says rhyming words, like hat-cat.
- Uses pronouns, like I, you, me, we, and they.
- Uses some plural words, like toys, birds, and buses.
- Uses a lot of sentences that have 4 or more words.
- Usually talks easily without repeating syllables or words.

Four to Five Years

- Understands words for order, like first, next, and last.
- Understands words for time, like yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
- Follows longer directions, like "Put your pajamas on, brush your teeth, and then pick out a book."
- Follows classroom directions, like "Draw a circle on your paper around something you eat."
- Hears and understands most of what is said at home and in school.

Four to Five Years

- Says all speech sounds in words. May make mistakes on sounds that are harder to say, like l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th.
- Responds to "What did you say?"
- Talks without repeating sounds or words most of the time.
- Names letters and numbers.
- Uses sentences that have more than 1 action word, like jump, play, and get. May make some mistakes, like "Zach got 2 video games, but I got one."
- Tells a short story.
- Keeps a conversation going.
- Talks in different ways depending on the listener and place. May use short sentences with younger children or talk louder outside than inside.

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