# Speech and Language Milestones

## What should my child be able to do?

### Hearing and Understanding

#### Birth-3 Months
- Startles at loud sounds.
- Quiets or smiles when you talk.
- Seems to recognize your voice. Quiets if crying.

#### 4-6 Months
- Moves her eyes in the direction of sounds.
- Responds to changes in your tone of voice.
- Notices toys that make sounds.
- Pays attention to music.

#### 7 Months-1 Year
- Turns and looks in the direction of sounds.
- Looks when you point.
- Turn when you call her name.
- Understands words for common items and people – words like *cup, truck, juice, and daddy*.
- Starts to respond to simple words and phrases, like "No," "Come here," and "Want more?"
- Plays games with you, like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake.
- Listens to songs and stories for a short time.

#### One to Two Years
- Points to a few body parts when you ask.
- Follows 1-part directions, like "Roll the ball" or "Kiss the baby".
- Responds to simple questions, like "Who's that?" or "Where's your shoe?"
- Listens to simple stories, songs, and rhymes.
- Points to pictures in a book when you name them.

#### Two to Three Years
- Understands differences in meaning 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.

### Talking

#### Birth-3 Months
- Makes cooing sounds.
- Cries change for different needs.
- Smiles at people.

#### 4-6 Months
- Coos and babbles when playing alone or with you.
- Makes speech-like babbling sounds, like *pa, ba,* and *mi*.
- Giggles and laughs.
- Makes sounds when happy or upset.

#### 7 Months-1 Year
- Babbles long strings of sounds, like *mimi upup babababa*.
- Uses sounds and gestures to get and keep attention.
- Points to objects and shows them to others.
- Uses gestures like waving bye, reaching for "up," and shaking his head no.
- Imitates different speech sounds.
- Says 1 or 2 words, like *hi, dog, dada, mama,* or *uh-oh*. This will happen around his first birthday, but sounds may not be clear.

#### One to Two Years
- Uses a lot of new words.
- Uses *p, b, m, h,* and *w* in words.
- Starts to name pictures in books.
- 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.

#### Two to Three Years
- Has a word for almost everything.
- Talks about things that are not in the room.
- Uses *k, g, f, t, d,* and *n* in words.
- Uses words like *in, on,* and *under*.
- Uses two- or three- words to talk about and ask for things.
- People who know your child can understand him.
- Asks "Why?"
- Puts 3 words together to talk about things. May repeat some words and sounds.

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### What should my child be able to do?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hearing and Understanding</th>
<th>Talking</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Three to Four Years</strong></td>
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<td>• Responds when you call from another room.</td>
<td>• Answers simple who, what, and where questions.</td>
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<td>• Understands words for some colors, like red, blue, and green.</td>
<td>• Says rhyming words, like hat-cat.</td>
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<td>• Understands words for some shapes, like circle and square.</td>
<td>• Uses pronouns, like I, you, me, we, and they.</td>
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<td>• Understands words for family, like brother, grandmother, and aunt.</td>
<td>• Uses some plural words, like toys, birds, and buses.</td>
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<td><strong>Four to Five Years</strong></td>
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<td>• Understands words for order, like first, next, and last.</td>
<td>• Most people understand what your child says.</td>
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<td>• Understands words for time, like yesterday, today, and tomorrow.</td>
<td>• Asks when and how questions.</td>
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<td>• Follows longer directions, like “Put your pajamas on, brush your teeth, and then pick out a book.”</td>
<td>• Puts 4 words together. May make some mistakes, like &quot;I goed to school.”</td>
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<td>• Follows classroom directions, like “Draw a circle on your paper around something you eat.”</td>
<td>• Talks about what happened during the day. Uses about 4 sentences at a time.</td>
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<td>• Hears and understands most of what she hears at home and in school.</td>
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<td>• 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.</td>
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<td>Your child may use short sentences with younger children. He may talk louder outside than inside.</td>
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