

# Speech and Language Milestones

| What should my child be able to do?  |  |
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| Hearing and Understanding  | Talking  |
| <p><b>Birth-3 Months</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Startles at loud sounds.</li> <li>Quiets or smiles when you talk.</li> <li>Seems to recognize your voice. Quiets if crying.</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Birth-3 Months</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Makes cooing sounds.</li> <li>Cries change for different needs.</li> <li>Smiles at people.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>4-6 Months</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moves her eyes in the direction of sounds.</li> <li>Responds to changes in your tone of voice.</li> <li>Notices toys that make sounds.</li> <li>Pays attention to music.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>4-6 Months</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coos and babbles when playing alone or with you.</li> <li>Makes speech-like babbling sounds, like <i>pa</i>, <i>ba</i>, and <i>mi</i>.</li> <li>Giggles and laughs.</li> <li>Makes sounds when happy or upset.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>7 Months-1 Year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turns and looks in the direction of sounds.</li> <li>Looks when you point.</li> <li>Turn when you call her name.</li> <li>Understands words for common items and people – words like <i>cup</i>, <i>truck</i>, <i>juice</i>, and <i>daddy</i>.</li> <li>Starts to respond to simple words and phrases, like "No," "Come here," and "Want more?"</li> <li>Plays games with you, like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake.</li> <li>Listens to songs and stories for a short time.</li> </ul> | <p><b>7 Months-1 Year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Babbles long strings of sounds, like <i>mimi upup babababa</i>.</li> <li>Uses sounds and gestures to get and keep attention.</li> <li>Points to objects and shows them to others.</li> <li>Uses gestures like waving bye, reaching for "up," and shaking his head no.</li> <li>Imitates different speech sounds.</li> <li>Says 1 or 2 words, like <i>hi</i>, <i>dog</i>, <i>dada</i>, <i>mama</i>, or <i>uh-oh</i>. This will happen around his first birthday, but sounds may not be clear.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>One to Two Years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Points to a few body parts when you ask.</li> <li>Follows 1-part directions, like "Roll the ball" or "Kiss the baby".</li> <li>Responds to simple questions, like "Who's that?" or "Where's your shoe?"</li> <li>Listens to simple stories, songs, and rhymes.</li> <li>Points to pictures in a book when you name them.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>One to Two Years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses a lot of new words.</li> <li>Uses <i>p</i>, <i>b</i>, <i>m</i>, <i>h</i>, and <i>w</i> in words.</li> <li>Starts to name pictures in books.</li> <li>Asks questions, like "What's that?", "Who's that?", and "Where's kitty?"</li> <li>Puts 2 words together, like "more apple," "no bed," and "mommy" book."</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Two to Three Years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understands differences in meaning go-stop, big-little, and up-down.</li> <li>Follows 2-part directions, like "Get the spoon and put it on the table".</li> <li>Understands new words quickly.</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Two to Three Years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Has a word for almost everything.</li> <li>Talks about things that are not in the room.</li> <li>Uses <i>k</i>, <i>g</i>, <i>f</i>, <i>t</i>, <i>d</i>, and <i>n</i> in words.</li> <li>Uses words like <i>in</i>, <i>on</i>, and <i>under</i>.</li> <li>Uses two- or three- words to talk about and ask for things.</li> <li>People who know your child can understand him.</li> <li>Asks "Why?"</li> <li>Puts 3 words together to talk about things. May repeat some words and sounds.</li> </ul>  |

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## What should my child be able to do?

### Hearing and Understanding

### Talking

#### Three to Four Years

- Responds when you call from another room.
- 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

- Answers simple who, what, and where 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.
- Most people understand what your child says.
- Asks when and how questions.
- Puts 4 words together. May make some mistakes, like "I goed to school."
- Talks about what happened during the day. Uses about 4 sentences at a time.

#### 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 she hears 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 gots 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. Your child may use short sentences with younger children. He may talk louder outside than inside.

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