

Language Milestones

Birth to 3 months

- ✓ Reacts to loud sounds
- ✓ Calm or smile when spoken to
- ✓ Recognize caregiver's voice and calms when crying
- ✓ While feeding – start & stop sucking when it hears a sound
- ✓ Coos and make pleasure sounds
- ✓ Has a special way of crying for different needs
- ✓ Smiles when he or she sees caregiver

Age: 4 to 6 months

- ✓ Follows sounds with his or her eyes
- ✓ Reacts to changes in caregiver's tone of voice
- ✓ Notices toys that make sounds
- ✓ Pays attention to music
- ✓ Babbles in speech-like way, using different sounds (including sounds with p,b,m)
- ✓ Laughs
- ✓ Babbles when excited or unhappy
- ✓ Makes gurgling sounds when playing alone or with caregiver

Age: 7 months to 1 year

- ✓ Enjoys playing peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake
- ✓ Turns & looks in direction of sounds
- ✓ Listens when spoken to
- ✓ Understand words for common objects like - cup, shoe or juice
- ✓ Responds to requests (i.e. "Come here")
- ✓ Babbles long & short groups of sounds (i.e. "tata", "upup", "bibibi")
- ✓ Babbles to keep and get attention
- ✓ Communicates using gestures like waving or holding out arms ('Pick me up')
- ✓ Imitates different speech sounds
- ✓ Has 1 to 2 words (i.e. "hi", "Dada", "doggie") by first birthday

Age: 1 to 2 years

- ✓ Knows a few body parts and can point to them when asked
- ✓ Follow simple commands (“roll the ball”) and understand simple Qus (“where’s your shoe?”)
- ✓ Enjoys simple stories, songs and rhymes
- ✓ Points to pictures- when named in books
- ✓ Learns new words on a regular basis
- ✓ Use some 1 or 2 word questions (“Go Bye-bye?” or “Where Kitty?”)
- ✓ Puts 2 words together (“more cookie”)
- ✓ Uses many different consonant sounds at beginning of words

Age: 2 to 3 years

- ✓ Has a word for almost everything
- ✓ Will use 2 or 3 – word phrases to talk about and ask for things
- ✓ Uses k, g, t, d, and n sounds
- ✓ Speaks in a way that’s understood by family members & friends
- ✓ Names objects to ask for them or to direct attention to them

Age: 3 to 4 years

- ✓ Hears caregiver when called from another room
- ✓ Hear TV or radio at the same sound level as other family members
- ✓ Answers simple “who” “what” “where” & “why” questions
- ✓ Talks about activities at daycare, preschool or friends’ home
- ✓ Uses sentences with 4 or more words
- ✓ Speaks easily without having to repeat syllables or words

Age: 4 to 5 years

- ✓ Pays attention to a short story and answers simple questions about it
- ✓ Hears and understands most of what’s said at home and in school
- ✓ Uses sentences that give many details
- ✓ Tells stories that stay on topic
- ✓ Communicates easily with other children & adults
- ✓ Says most sounds correctly except for a few (l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, and th)
- ✓ Uses rhyming words
- ✓ Names some letters and numbers
- ✓ Uses adult grammar

Milestones are adapted from *How Does your child Hear and Talk*, Of ASHA