

Developmental Milestones in Normal Speech and Language

2 Months

- Begins to respond to human voices
- Uses different cries for pain, hunger, and discomfort
- Begins to coo and babble

4 months

- Responds to noise by turning to source
- Repeats monosyllables
- Vocalizes in self-initiated sound play

5-6 months

- Uses babbling for getting attention
- Vocalizes displeasure
- Uses several syllables at one time

6-7 months

- Recognizes family members
- Plays speech-gesture games – pat-a-cake, peek-a-boo
- Uses sentence-like vocalizations without using real words

8-10 months

- Waves bye bye, shakes head for no
- Imitates a number of syllables

11-12 months

- Babbles monologues when alone
- Says mama or dada or other first word
- Imitates words such as more, baby, and up
- Responds to requests for simple actions

12-18 months

- Uses average sentence length of 1-2 words
- Understands simple directions
- Recognizes familiar objects, persons or pets
- Uses nonverbal behavior such as pointing, smiling or pushing

18-24 months

- Conducts inflected babbling with some real words
- Uses telegraphic speech, omitting articles, verbs, etc.
- Identifies major body parts
- Imitates words frequently
- Uses first pronouns – me and mine

24-30 Months

- Understands differences in size
- Asks simple questions such as “where ball?”

30-36 months

- Distinguishes prepositions such as in, under, or on
- Uses average sentence of 2-4 words
- Talks about immediate experiences
- Correctly produces p,m,h,n, and w sounds

36-48 months

- Uses average sentence of 3-5 words
- Understands basic concepts such as size and shape
- Asks questions using why, what, where, and who
- Counts and identifies colors
- Correctly produces b,t,d,k,g,f,y, sounds
- Produces speech which is intelligible 70 % of time

4-5 years

- Uses average sentence length of 4-6 words
- Uses will to form future tense
- Engages in conversations with adults

5-6 years

- Uses all pronouns consistently
- Begins using temporal terms – then, before, first, next, last
- Correctly produces ng, s,r, l sounds

These milestones are only general indicators of what you might expect in the normal development of your child's speech and language skills. Remember, all children develop differently. If you have any concerns, talk with your child's physician, teacher, or a speech language pathologist.

You can contact our SLPs for an appointment or with questions.