BLOSSOM FLOURISH GROW

Communication • Connection • Creativity

Communication Milestones

Selected milestones adapted from Speech Pathology Australia | A guide, not a diagnosis

12 months

UNDERSTANDING

• Recognises around 10 words, including familiar people and objects.

• Responds to their name and familiar greetings or gestures.

SPEAKING & EXPRESSION

• Uses sounds and gestures, with first words beginning to emerge.

• Babbles and imitates noises.

18 months

UNDERSTANDING

• Understands up to 50 words and some brief phrases.

• Follows a simple direction and identifies familiar objects or book pictures.

SPEAKING & EXPRESSION

• Uses around 6-20 individual words and imitates words or noises.

• Names some body parts; uses familiar objects in pretend play.

2 years

UNDERSTANDING

• Follows simple directions containing two parts.

• Responds to “what” or “where”; identifies body parts and pictures.

• Understands “in” and “on”.

SPEAKING & EXPRESSION

• Uses over 50 words and begins combining two words.

• Uses voice changes to ask questions; says “no”.

• Begins using “my” and “mine”; uses varied speech sounds.

Children vary. If communication is difficult or progress concerns you, seek advice early from a speech pathologist. These selected spoken-language milestones do not describe every way a child can communicate.

BFG approach: respect gestures, signs, AAC and different ways of connecting; do not require eye contact.

SPA source: 12 months (click to open)

SPA source: 18 months (click to open)

SPA source: 2 years (click to open)

Selected SPA milestones paraphrased; inclusive notes are BFG additions. Not an SPA-endorsed resource.

Communication Milestones

Selected milestones adapted from Speech Pathology Australia | A guide, not a diagnosis

3 years

UNDERSTANDING

- Follows more complex directions with two parts.
- Understands “what”, “where” and “who”.
- Recognises basic colours; groups items and understands “same” and “different”.

SPEAKING & EXPRESSION

- Combines four or five words with varied vocabulary.
- Asks questions and talks about past events; grammar is still developing (e.g. “goed”).
- Has conversations; staying on topic and taking turns are developing.

4 years

UNDERSTANDING

- Answers questions about everyday activities and recent stories.
- Understands some number concepts.
- Begins noticing matching sounds at the start or end of words.

SPEAKING & EXPRESSION

- Joins ideas with words like “and”, “but” and “because”.
- Describes events and asks many questions.
- Uses pronouns and negatives; counts to five and names some colours.

5 years

UNDERSTANDING

- Follows directions with three parts.
- Understands time words such as “before” and “later”.
- Explores word meanings and recognises some letters, sounds and numbers.

SPEAKING & EXPRESSION

- Uses organised sentences and past/future verb forms.
- Joins longer conversations and tells short stories with a beginning, middle and end.
- Uses most speech sounds; some sounds may still need support.

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BFG approach: respect gestures, signs, AAC and different ways of connecting; do not require eye contact.

SPA source: 3 years (click to open)

SPA source: 4 years (click to open)

SPA source: 5 years (click to open)

Selected SPA milestones paraphrased; inclusive notes are BFG additions. Not an SPA-endorsed resource.