

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT NORMAL SPEECH AND HEARING DEVELOPMENT

Birth - 6 months

- Startles or cries in response to loud sounds.
- Stirs or awakens when sleeping quietly and someone makes a loud sound.
- Makes "coo" or "aaah" sounds.
- Repeats the same sounds frequently and babbles.

6 - 9 months

- Notices and turns head toward the side and source of new sounds.
- Responds to "no" and his/her name.
- Babbling increases. Begins to use 2-syllable babbling.
- Makes many different sounds.

9 - 15 months

- Turns head in any direction to find an interesting sound.
- Responds to name when spoken softly.
- Uses his/her voice to get attention.
- Begins to use single words.
- Gives toys to parents on verbal request.

15 - 24 months

- Follows simple 2-part requests (e.g., "Get your coat and put it on.").
- Uses about 15-20 words or more.
- Imitates words.
- Puts 2 words together (e.g., "more milk").

2 - 3 years

- Notices different sounds, such as a dog barking or someone at the door.
- At 2 years has an expressive vocabulary of 50-250 words.

- At 3 years has a vocabulary of over 1000 words.
- Asks questions.
- Uses pronouns (e.g., "I," "you," etc.).
- Uses 2- or 3-word sentences.

3 - 4 years

- Understands conversation easily.
- Says most sounds easily, except possibly /s/, /t/, and /th/. (75% of 4-year-olds will produce /r/ and /l/ correctly).
- Uses plurals (e.g., "toys").
- Uses 4- or 5-word sentences.
- Talks about experiences from recent past.
- Speaks so that others (i.e., other than caregiver) can understand. May speak with some disfluency such as whole word repetitions.

4 - 5 years

- Hears and understands most speech, even when spoken quietly.
- Uses most sounds correctly, except possibly /s/ and /th/, /r/, and /l/.
- Can define common words and explain how they are used (e.g., fork, scarf, etc.).

Remember

- Your baby must hear well to learn to talk.
- No child is too young to have a hearing test.
- Your child will likely make some speech mistakes as he/she learns to talk.
- Contact your physician, an audiologist, or a speech-language pathologist if you are concerned about your child's hearing or speech.

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