

# Speech & Language Milestones

(American Speech-Language-Hearing Association)

## BIRTH TO 3 MONTHS

- Alerts to sound
- Quiets or smiles when you talk
- Makes sounds back and forth with you
- Makes different sounds for happy and upset
- Coos, makes sounds like ooooo, ahhh, and mmmmm
- Recognizes loved ones and some common objects
- Turns or looks toward voices

## 4 TO 6 MONTHS

- Giggles and laughs
- Responds to facial expressions
- Looks at objects of interest and follows object with their eyes
- Reacts to toys that make sounds
- Makes sounds like uuuuummm, aaaaagoo, daaaaa
- Blows “raspberries”

## 7 TO 9 MONTHS

- Looks at you when you call their name
- Stops for a moment when you say “No”
- Babbles long strings of sounds, like mamama, or babababa
- Looks for loved ones when upset
- Raises arms to be picked up
- Recognizes the names of familiar people and objects
- Pushes away unwanted objects

## 10 TO 12 MONTHS

- By age 10 months, reaches for objects
- Points, waves, and shows or gives objects
- Imitates and initiates gestures (peek-a-boo, blowing kisses)
- Responds to simple phrases (“Go bye-bye”, “Look at mommy”)
- Tries to copy sounds you make
- Enjoys dancing
- Says one or two words (mama, dada, hi, bye, etc.)

## 13 TO 18 MONTHS

- Looks arounds when asked “where” questions
- Follows simple, one-step directions
- Points to make requests, comment, or get information
- Shakes head for “no” and nods head for “yes”
- Understands and uses words for common objects or familiar people
- Identifies one or more body parts
- Uses gestures when excited (clapping, high-five) or being silly
- Uses a combination of long strings of sounds and some real-words

## 19 TO 24 MONTHS

- Uses and understands at least 50 different words--may not always sound clear to unfamiliar listeners
- Puts two or more words together (“more water” or “go outside”)
- Follows simple, two-step directions
- Uses words like me, mine, and you
- Uses words to ask for help
- Uses possessives (“daddy’s sock”)

## 2 TO 3 YEARS

- Uses word combinations often (“I want”)
- Tries to get your attention by saying, “Look at me!”
- Says their name when asked
- Uses some plural words (birds, toys, etc.)
- Uses -ing verbs (eating) and adds -ed for past actions (played)
- Speech is clearer, but still occasionally unclear to unfamiliar listeners
- Asks why and how

## 3 TO 4 YEARS

- Compares things with words like bigger or shorter
- Tells you a story from a book or video
- Understands and uses location words (inside, on, under)
- Uses words like “a” or “the” when talking about “a book”
- Pretends to read alone or with others
- Recognizes signs and logos like STOP
- Says the sounds at the beginning, middle, and end of words
- Speaks clearly and understood by most listeners