

Speech & Language Milestones Chart

Age	Milestones
0-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coos, gurgles, and makes pleasure sounds • Turns head toward sounds • Begins to laugh and squeal
6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds to name • Babbles with variety (e.g., "ba-da") • Understands "no" and simple commands • Uses gestures (i.e., waving, pointing)
12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Says 5-10 words meaningfully • Imitates words and sounds • Understands up to 50 words • Uses gestures and vocalizations to express wants
18-24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a vocabulary of ~50 words • Begins combining 2-words (e.g., "want + milk") • Follows simple two-step directions • Points to common objects or pictures when named
2-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses 2-3 word combinations regularly • Asks simple questions • Speech is understood 50-75% of the time • Begins using pronouns (e.g., me, you, mine)
3-4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talks about daily experiences • Speech is understood ~75-90% of the time • Uses 4-5 word sentences • Understands concepts like big/little, in/out
4-5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tells stories and follows multi-step directions • Uses correct grammar most of the time • Speech is understood ~90-100% of the time • Begins using complex sentences
5+ years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicates clearly with both adults and peers • Uses language to reason, predict, and describe • Understands humor, time concepts, and abstract ideas