

Speech and Language Milestones

What should my child be able to do?	
Hearing and Understanding	Talking
<p>Birth-3 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Startles at loud sounds. Quiets or smiles when you talk. Seems to recognize your voice. Quiets if crying. 	<p>Birth-3 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes cooing sounds. Cries change for different needs. Smiles at people.
<p>4-6 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moves their eyes in the direction of sounds. Responds to changes in your tone of voice. Notices toys that make sounds. Pays attention to music. 	<p>4-6 Months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coos and babbles when playing alone or with you. Makes speech-like babbling sounds, like <i>pa, ba, and mi</i>. Giggles and laughs. Makes sounds when happy or upset.
<p>7 Months-1 Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turns and looks in the direction of sounds. Looks when you point. Turn when you call their name. Understands words for common items and people – words like <i>cup, truck, juice, and daddy</i>. Starts to respond to simple words and phrases, like "No," "Come here," and "Want more?" Plays games with you, like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake. Listens to songs and stories for a short time. 	<p>7 Months-1 Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbles long strings of sounds, like <i>mimi upup babababa</i>. Uses sounds and gestures to get and keep attention. Points to objects and shows them to others. Uses gestures like waving bye, reaching for "up," and shaking his head no. Imitates different speech sounds. Says 1 or 2 words, like <i>hi, dog, dada, mama, or uh-oh</i>. This will happen around their first birthday, but sounds may not be clear.
<p>One to Two Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points to a few body parts when you ask. Follows 1-part directions, like "Roll the ball" or "Kiss the baby". Responds to simple questions, like "Who's that?" or "Where's your shoe?" Listens to simple stories, songs, and rhymes. Points to pictures in a book when you name them. 	<p>One to Two Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses a lot of new words. Uses <i>p, b, m, h, and w</i> in words. Starts to name pictures in books. Asks questions, like "What's that?", "Who's that?", and "Where's kitty?" Puts 2 words together, like "more apple," "no bed," and "mommy" book."
<p>Two to Three Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands opposites, like go-stop, big-little, and up-down. Follows 2-part directions, like "Get the spoon and put it on the table". Understands new words quickly. 	<p>Two to Three Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a word for almost everything. Talks about things that are not in the room. Uses <i>k, g, f, t, d, and n</i> in words. Uses words like <i>in, on, and under</i>. Uses two- or three- words to talk about and ask for things. People who know your child can understand them. Asks "Why?" Puts 3 words together to talk about things. May repeat some words and sounds.

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What should my child be able to do?

Hearing and Understanding	Talking
<p>Three to Four Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responds when you call from another room. • Understands words for some colors, like <i>red</i>, <i>blue</i>, and <i>green</i>. • Understands words for some shapes, like <i>circle</i> and <i>square</i>. • Understands words for family, like <i>brother</i>, <i>grandmother</i>, and <i>aunt</i>. 	<p>Three to Four Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answers simple who, what, and where questions. • Says rhyming words, like <i>hat-cat</i>. • Uses pronouns, like <i>I</i>, <i>you</i>, <i>me</i>, <i>we</i>, and <i>they</i>. • Uses some plural words, like <i>toys</i>, <i>birds</i>, and <i>buses</i>. • Most people understand what your child says. • Asks when and how questions. • Puts 4 words together. May make some mistakes, like "I goed to school." • Talks about what happened during the day. Uses about 4 sentences at a time.
<p>Four to Five Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands words for order, like <i>first</i>, <i>next</i>, and <i>last</i>. • Understands words for time, like <i>yesterday</i>, <i>today</i>, and <i>tomorrow</i>. • Follows longer directions, like "Put your pajamas on, brush your teeth, and then pick out a book." • Follows classroom directions, like "Draw a circle on your paper around something you eat." • Hears and understands most of what they hear at home and in school. 	<p>Four to Five Years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Says all speech sounds in words. May make mistakes on sounds that are harder to say, like <i>l</i>, <i>s</i>, <i>r</i>, <i>v</i>, <i>z</i>, <i>ch</i>, <i>sh</i>, and <i>th</i>. • Responds to "What did you say?" • Talks without repeating sounds or words most of the time. • Names letters and numbers. • Uses sentences that have more than 1 action word, like <i>jump</i>, <i>play</i>, and <i>get</i>. May make some mistakes, like "Zach gots 2 video games, but I got one." • Tells a short story. • Keeps a conversation going. • Talks in different ways, depending on the listener and place. Your child may use short sentences with younger children. They may talk louder outside than inside.

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