

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES (LANGUAGE)

Age

Listening Skills

Speaking Skills

Birth–3 Months

- Startles at the sound of loud noises.
- Smiles at the sound of your voice.
- Seems to recognize familiar voices.

- Makes cooing sounds.
- Uses different cries for different needs.
- Smiles at familiar people.

4–6 Months

- Moves eyes toward the source of sounds
- Recognizes change in your tone of voice
- Pays attention to music, toys that make noise.

- Coos and babbles when playing.
- Makes speech-like sounds (ba, pa, mi).
- Giggles and laughs
- Makes different sounds when happy versus upset.

7 Months–1 Year

- Turns head toward the source of sounds.
- Recognizes his/her own name.
- Understands common words, such as mommy, milk, baby.
- Responds to simple, routine phrases (come here, want up?).
- Participates in play-routines, such as peek-a-boo.

- Babbles multiple syllables together.
- Uses sounds and gestures to get attention.
- Points to objects, shows objects to others.
- Uses communicative gestures, such as waving, reaching to come up, shaking head.
- Around 12 months, says 1 or 2 single words such as *mama*, *dog*, *no*.

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Listening Skills

Speaking Skills

1-2 Years

- Points to 3-4 body parts when asked (nose, ears, belly, toes).
- Follows a variety of 1-step directions, like "put your shoes on."
- Understands simple question types, such as who and where questions.
- Listens to stories and music.
- Points to pictures in book when named.

- Uses & imitates new words frequently.
- Uses early developing speech sounds b, p, m, h, w.
- Spontaneously pictures in books.
- Asks questions, such as "what's that?"
- Combines two-words into phrases, such as "mommy go."

2-3 Years

- Understands basic concepts/opposites, such as stop/go, hot/cold, big/small.
- Follows 2-step directions, like "Pick up the toy and put it in the basket."
- Learns new words and concepts quickly.

- Has a word for most objects at home.
- Talks about objects/people that are not in the room.
- Uses 2-3 word phrases to communicate.
- Uses the sounds k, g, f, t, d, n within words.

3-4 Years

- Responds when you call them from another room.
- Identifies colors by pointing.
- Recognizes & matches different shapes.
- Recognizes rhyming words.

- Answers who, what, where questions.
- Uses pronouns (he, they) and plurals
- Uses 4-5 word sentences that most people understand.
- Talks about what happened that day.

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Age	Listening Skills	Speaking Skills
4-5 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understands sequencing words, like first/next/last.• Understands temporal concepts, such as today, yesterday, tomorrow.• Follows multi-step directions.• Understands most of what is said at school and at home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Names letters and numbers.• Uses compound sentences (I got a new bike and I rided it to the lake).• Tells a short story with 3-4 sentences.• Participates in conversations for multiple turns.
5-6 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follows 3-steps directions.• Answers questions about a story after listening to it read aloud.• Answers factual and inferential questions.• Understands most conversations that they hear.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begins to master grammatical rules.• Attempts to sound out words when reading.• Uses complex sentences with words like 'because' and 'when'.• Speaks similarly to adults in their lives.

******Please note that all children develop at different rates. This chart represents the age when most children meet milestones. Children should meet all milestones within an age range once they reach the top of the age range. Missing one skill within each age range does not necessarily mean there is a problem; however, if you answer 'no' to most of the items within your child's age group, you may want to seek a speech and language evaluation.**

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES (SPEECH)

Age	Speech Sound Development
By 3 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Makes cooing sounds.
By 5 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laughs and makes playful sounds.
By 8 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Makes speech-like babbling sounds, like puh, ba, mi.
By 1 Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Babbles strings of sounds, like upupup, bababa.
By 3 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produces m, n, w, p, b, d, h within words; can be understood by familiar people.
By 4 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produces k, g, f, y within words; can be understood by the majority of people.
By 5 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produces s, sh, ch, j, ng, l within words.; can be understood by nearly everyone.
By 6 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produces th, r within words; can be understood by all listeners.

DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES (SPEECH)

*****Children will often make mistakes when learning to speak, but with practice, the errors should be eliminated. Most children can produce almost all speech sounds correctly by the age of 4–5 years. A child who has difficulty producing sounds accurately beyond this age may have a speech sound disorder. Children who have speech sound disorders may substitute one sound for another, leave out sounds, or distort sounds, making it hard to understand them. To learn more about the development of speech sounds in English, see the table above.

*****This chart shows the ages when most English-speaking children acquire speech sounds.

SOURCES & CREDITS:

American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA):
<https://www.asha.org/slp/schools/prof-consult/norms/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>