

# Language Milestones

A child's communication skills develop quickly and are always advancing during the first years of life. These are the general ages at which children acquire most of their language milestones. Every child is unique and develops at their own pace, but **please remember that the "let's wait and see if my child outgrows their delay" yields worse outcomes.** If you suspect a delay consult with a speech therapist.

Sources: ASHA.com; Caroline Bowen PhD

<p>Birth - 3 Months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Responds to sounds in the environmental</li> <li>- Recognizes familiar voices</li> <li>- Smiles at familiar people</li> <li>- Makes cooing sounds</li> <li>- Distinct crying for different situation</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3 - 6 Months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Turns eyes/head in the direction of sounds</li> <li>- Responds to tone of voice</li> <li>- Babbles with many different sounds (including p, b, and m)</li> <li>- Laughs and gurgles</li> <li>- Expresses excitement and displeasure</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>6 - 12 Months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Turns &amp; looks in direction of sounds &amp; listens to others' speech</li> <li>- Recognizes common words ("no" "dada" "ball")</li> <li>- Responds to simple requests ("more juice?")</li> <li>- Gains attention without crying</li> <li>- Uses gestures and imitates speech sounds</li> <li>- First words emerging (not yet spoken clearly)</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>1 - 2 Years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Points to pictures in a book or body parts when asked</li> <li>- Understands simple directions ("take the ball") &amp; questions ("where's the doggie?")</li> <li>- <b>Using average 50+ words and vocabulary increasing every month</b></li> <li>- <b>Uses 1- and 2- word questions ("whats that?) and sentences ("more cookie")</b></li> <li>- Uses many different consonant sounds</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>2-3 Years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understands simple opposites (up/down, stop/go, yummy/yucky)</li> <li>- Follows 2-step directions ("get your shoes and put them in the closet")</li> <li>- <b>Uses average 300+ words</b></li> <li>- <b>Uses 2-3 word phrases ("gimme more water")</b> which family can understand</li> <li>- Vocabulary is exploding; has a word for almost everything in their world</li> <li>- Asks "why?"</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>3-4 Years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Uses 3-4 word sentences</b></li> <li>- Understands "who?" "what?" "where?" questions</li> <li>- Talks about events/activities that happened away from home</li> <li>- Asks "when" and "how" questions</li> <li>- <b>Using average 1000+ words</b></li> <li>- Uses pronouns ("I" "he" "they") and some plurals ("kitties" "flowers")</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>4-5 Years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understands sequencing and time words ("first go inside, then wash your hands")</li> <li>- Follows complex instructions</li> <li>- Hears and understands most of what is said to and around them</li> <li>- Names letters and numbers</li> <li>- Can tell a long, imaginative story staying on topic, and using "adult-like" grammar</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>