

Speech and Language Developmental Milestones 0-5 years

A child's communication skills develop rapidly during the first years of life. The following are speech and language milestones that most children experience. Every child's development is unique however if you are concerned about your child's communication skills, contact a Speech and Language Therapist for advice.

2- 3 Years

- Understands simple opposites (up/down, stop/go, etc)
- Follows 2-step directions
- Listens to stories
- Uses 2-3 word phrases
- Speech is usually understood by familiar listeners
- May stutter on words & sounds but not bothered by it
 - Names objects
 - Asks "why?"

Birth - 3 Mths

- Responds to Environmental sounds
- Recognises familiar voices
- Smiles at familiar people
- Coos/goos when happy
- Distinct crying for different situations

1 - 2 Years

- Points to body parts when asked
- Follows simple directions
- Understands simple questions
- Vocabulary increases every month
- Uses 1 and 2 word questions
- Puts two words together
- Uses many different consonant sounds

3 - 4 Years

- Uses 3-4 word sentences
- Understands family words
- Talks about events/activities that happened away from home
- Speech is mostly understandable
- Answers simple wh- questions
- Asks "when" & "how" questions
- Understands basic shapes & colours
- Uses pronouns & some plurals

4 - 6 Mths

- Looks in the direction of sounds
- Responds to tone of voice
- Babbles with many different sounds (including p, b, and m)
- Laughs and Gurgles
- Expresses excitement and displeasure

7 Mths - 1 Year

- Looks in direction of sounds
- Listens to others' speech
- Recognizes common words
- Responds to simple requests
- Varying babbling
- Gains others' attention without crying
- Uses gestures & imitates speech sounds
- Uses 1 to 2 words

4 - 5 Years

- Follows complex instructions
- Hears & understands most of what is said to & around them
- Produces all speech sounds, but may make intermittent errors on l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, and/or th
- Names letters & numbers
- Tells short stories & maintains conversations
 - Can adapt speech to listener e.g. give more/less info.



Questions or concerns?
Contact SpeechWorks for
a free phone consultation.