



Language Developmental Milestones

By 6 Months

Expressive Language:

- Strings vowels together
- Begins using consonants when babbling
- Makes distinct sounds for joy

Receptive Language:

- Responds to sounds differently
- May respond to own name

Social Communication:

- Cries in different ways to show hunger, pain, and being tired
- Takes turns babbling with parent

By 12 Months

Expressive Language:

- Makes a variety of consonant sounds. Says some early words like "mama" and "dada"
- Changes pitch like adult

Receptive Language:

- Understands "no"
- Follows others' point
- Follows simple questions and requests

Social Communication:

- Uses gestures like "bye" or shaking head "no"
- Uses finger to point
- Pays attention to caregivers' voices

By 2 Years

Expressive Language:

- Knows about 200 words
- Puts two words together to make phrases
- 50% of speech is intelligible

Receptive Language:

- Points to things when they are named, including body parts and familiar people
- Follows simple directions

Social Communication:

- Imitates adult activities in play
- Points to things in books
- Repeats actions to make others laugh

By 3 Years

Expressive Language:

- Can name most familiar things
- Uses pronouns "I," "we," and "you"
- Uses some regular plurals

Receptive Language:

- Follows 2-3 step instructions.
- Understands prepositions, like "in," "on," and "under"

Social Communication:

- Knows age, name, and sex
- Can name at least one friend
- Carries on a conversation using 2-3 sentences

By 4-5 Years

Expressive Language:

- Tells simple stories using full sentences
- Uses many rules of grammar, including correct pronoun use and future tense

Receptive Language:

- Follows 3-step instructions
- Sings a song or says a poem from memory

Social Communication:

- Knows first and last name and address
- Engages in pretend play
- Engages in collaborative play

Enabling Children to Reach Their Full Potential