



PRESCHOOL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

Although every child develops skills at their own rate, there are expected developmental milestones that mark their progress. If you suspect that your child is having problems developing their speech and/or language, have a Speech-Language Pathologist assess your child. Early intervention is important and effective. If you are noticing delays at any stage in their development, we are here to help.

By 9-12 Months

- Follows simple one step commands (“Come here”; “Sit down”)
- Enjoys playing simple social games (peek-a-boo)
- Responds to their name; understands “no” and environmental sounds (phone ringing; knock on the door)
- Uses gestures to communicate (waves bye-bye; shakes head ‘no’; “points” while looking at your eyes; brings toys to show you)
- Combines lots of sounds (“abee”; “baba”; “daduh”)

By 18 Months

- Points to some body parts when asked
- Understands in, on, off, out concepts
- Uses some pretend play (puts baby to bed)
- Makes at least 4 consonant sounds (b, n, d, w, h, g)
- Enjoys simple picture books and points to pictures with one finger
- Uses 10-20 words



By 24 Months

- Follows 2 step commands (“Go get your train and give it to Johnny”)
- Holds books and turns pages
- Enjoys being with other children and offers toys
- Uses 100 + words
- Combines 2+ words in short phrases (“Daddy coat”; “More juice”)
- Uses 2 pronouns (you/me/mine)
- Beginning to use some descriptive words (big, hungry, hot)
- Understood by most people 50% of the time
- Forms words/sounds effortlessly

By 2 ½ Years

- Uses 350 words, including action words
- Produces words with 2+ syllables (apple, banana, computer)
- Takes turns (both with toys and words/speech)
- Beginning to use some adult grammar (two books; frog jumping)
- Plays in multisteps (puts train on track-drives train to get blocks loaded- unloads blocks somewhere else)

By 3 Years

- Understands questions: who?, what?, where?, why?
- Creates longer sentences 4-5 words in length
- Talks about past events and simple stories
- Understood by most people 75% of the time
- Aware of the function of print (menus, books); loves being read to
- Interest in rhyming words



By Age 4

- Tells a story with beginning, middle and end
- Uses “adult like” grammar
- Follows multistep directions
- Understood by strangers the majority of the time
- Matches some letters with sounds

By Age 5

- Tells stories using past, present and future tenses clearly and in detail
- Uses all/almost all sounds with few speech errors when talking
- Follows group directions (“all the girls...”)
- Follows instructions, “If.... Then ...”
- Knows letters of alphabet
- Can identify sounds at the beginning of words (“dog” starts with a “d” sound)
- Explain how an object can be used
- Answers “when?” questions