



Child Language Development Milestones

(R = receptive E = expressive)

- 0-6 Months:**
- (R) Attends to face in direct line of vision
 - Smiles in response to own sound production
 - Turns eyes and head toward sound (3-6 months)
 - Responds to own name
 - Indicates displeasure if certain objects are withdrawn
 - (E) Babbles, coos in vocal play
 - Produces single vowels with variation
 - Uses babbling to get attention and uses some consonant like sounds
 - Says several syllables, sometimes four or more
 - Vocalizes for social contact and toys
- 6-12 months:**
- (R) Responds with appropriate gestures to words (such as 'up' and 'bye-bye')
 - Understands 'bye-bye' and 'no'
 - Will look at pictures briefly if pictures are named
 - Plays 'pat-a-cake' and 'peek-a-boo'
 - Complies with simple demands ('come here' or 'give me')
 - Recognizes 4-6 common words
 - (E) Begins 2-syllable babbling with 2 or more sounds
 - Babbles 'dada', 'mama' (not referring to parents)
 - Imitates non-speech sounds
 - Uses jargon often in sentence-like utterances
 - May speak first words after 'mama' and 'dada'
 - May express a thought with a single word
- 1-2 years:**
- (R) Understands a minimum of 50 words
 - Identifies major body parts (by 24 months)
 - Shakes head yes/no to some questions
 - Recognizes, points to many pictures when named
 - Demonstrates understanding of distinction in personal pronouns ('give it to her')
 - Understands 'who', 'what', 'where' questions
 - (E) Speaks first words at 10-12 months
 - Uses 2-3 word combinations at 18 months ('more milk', 'all gone')
 - Refers to self by name
 - Produces animal sounds
 - Answers yes/no questions verbally (by 2 years)
 - Tries to tell about experiences, using a combination of jargon and true words
 - Asks for food and drink

- 2-3 years:**
- (R) Points to pictures of common objects and persons
Understands 'in', 'off', 'on', and 'under'
Listens to simple story for 5-10 minutes
Understands size differences such as 'big/little'
Comprehends meanings of 500-900 words (by age 2)
Can follow 2-step directions
 - (E) Uses a vocabulary of 200-300 words by 2 ½ years
Vocabulary expands to 900 words by 3 years
Asks simple questions
Talks to self when playing alone
Refers to self by pronouns, such as 'I' or 'me'
- 3-4 years:**
- (R) Follow simple 3 step commands
Identifies concepts of 'in front/back of', 'top/bottom', 'next to', 'behind'
Recognizes gender specific pronouns, such as 'he/she' and 'him/her' by 3 years
Can sequence 3 pictures in order for a story
Demonstrates an understanding of simple conversation
Groups objects
 - (E) Uses vocabulary of 900-1500 words
Combines 4-6 words in a sentence
Asks 'how', 'why', 'when', and 'where' questions
Knows a few songs completely
Uses pronouns such as 'he/she', 'I', 'you', 'me', 'mine', 'we' correctly
Uses sentences with agreement of subject-verb
- 4-5 years:**
- (R) Understands more than 2000 words
Understands cause and effect
Classifies according to form, color, or use
Comprehends all types of questions
Sequences 4-5 pictures for a story
 - (E) Uses vocabulary of 2000 words or more
Uses basic adult sentence types (6-8 word sentences)
Tells a familiar story without pictures
States birthday and address
Answers 'when' questions
Asks the meaning of new words
Uses more complicated reasoning
- 5-6 years:**
- (R) Understands 2500-2800 words
Understands more complicated sentences
Understands many opposites
Identifies spatial concepts such as 'on' and 'behind'
 - (E) Vocabulary of 1500-2100 words
Defines objects by their function
Uses 5-6 word utterances
Can use different tenses (past, present, future)
Can use many different sentence types

- 6-7 years:**
- (R) Understands time/space concepts such as 'before/after' and first/second/last'
Developing phonological awareness skills and sound/word segmentation skills
Understands left and right
 - (E) Can generate creative sentences
Engages in conversations
Recites alphabet
Counts to 100 by rote

Child Speech Development

Approximate Age	Percentage understood by Parents
18 months	25%
2 years	50-70%
3 years	80%
4 years	90%

Speech & Articulation Development Chart

Average Age Sound is Mastered	Articulation sound
2- 2 ½ years	p, m, h, w, b, n
3-3 ½ years	k, g, d, t, f
4-4 ½ years	y, l, v, blends (st, pl, gr, etc.)
5- 5 ½ years	ing, r, s, sh, ch, j
6 years	th, z