

SPEECH-LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES



GET IN TOUCH!

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3 MONTHS

- Responds to adult interactions
- Seeks to make eye contact with adults
- Begins to “coo” and “gurgle”
- Vocalizes to adult’s smile and talk
- Responds to stimulation in and around the mouth

6 MONTHS

- Responds to sounds other than voices
- Recognizes own name
- Begins to babble consonant-vowel combinations
- Take turns vocalizing
- Vocalization sound more “speech like”
- Eats pureed foods from a small spoon
- Holds a bottle independently



9 MONTHS

- Gives objects upon request
- Understands simple questions (“Want up?”)
- Looks at pictures in a book
- Much more complex vocalizations (sounds like a conversation)
- Begins to say a few words
- Cleans spoon with his/her upper lip
- Begins to self feed using fingers
- Begins eating soft table foods

12 MONTHS

- Identifies objects in the environment
- Follows one-step directions
- Says more words spontaneously
- Imitates new words
- Uses toys and objects functionally (pushes a toy, attempts to brush own hair)
- Drinks through a straw
- Bites through crunchy cookies and crackers



18 MONTHS

- Produces at least fifteen words
- Uses consonants such as t, d, n, and h
- Understands 50 words
- Plays pretend with toys
- Moves food in his/her mouth from side to side as they chew
- Drinks out of open cup

24 MONTHS

- Produces at least 50 words
- Uses two-word phrases frequently
- Follows a two-step related command (“pick up the ball and roll it to me.”)
- Pretends in two-step sequences (pretends to give a doll a drink & wipe its mouth)
- Feeds him/herself using a spoon



36 MONTHS

- Produces at least 500 words
- Answers “wh” questions (“what did you eat for lunch?”)
- Begins to use grammatical forms (plurals, past-tense verbs, pronouns)
- Produces all speech sounds correctly except s, z, sh, ch, j, th, l, and r
- 80% understandable
- Consumes a variety of liquids and solids

4 YEARS

- Follows multi-part directions
- Begins to play rhyming games (“what rhymes with bat?”)
- Can tell about experiences in the correct sequence
- Produces all speech sounds correctly except r and “th” – 100% understandable
- Eating advanced textures with minimal supervision from caregiver



5 YEARS

- Has a minimum expressive vocabulary of 1500 words
- Can tell a story (includes a beginning, middle, & end)
- Defines objects by their use and can talk about their features (size, shape, composition)

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