



Speech & Language Developmental Milestones for Children Ages Birth – 5 Years

0-3 Months

- The child becomes startled by loud sounds.
- Begins to show recognition of their mother's voice and quiets if crying.
- Makes cooing and gooing sounds as a way to express pleasure and contentment.
- May demonstrate different types of crying for different needs.

4-6 Months

- The child moves their eyes in direction of sounds.
- Responds to changes in the tone of your voice.
- Begin to show interest in what is going on around them.
- The child's babble sounds more speech-like with various different sounds, including *p*, *b* and *m*.
- The child will vocalize excitement and displeasure through laughter and crying.

7-12 Months

- The child now anticipates events (e.g. peek-a-boo).
- Recognizes words for common items such as "cup", "ball", "book" or "juice".
- Responds to simple requests such as "Come here" or "Want more?"
- Listen to others speaking around them and begin to imitate the sounds that they hear producing their first word-like sounds known as jargon.
- Babbling has both long and short groups of sounds such as "mamamama" or "baba".
- Has one or two words (e.g. hi, dog, mama or dada) around their first birthday, although sounds may not be clear.

1-2 Years

- The child follows simple commands and understands simple questions (e.g. "Roll the ball," "Kiss the baby," "Where's your shoe?").
 - The child is able to point to simple pictures when named.
 - Listens to simple stories, songs and rhymes.
 - The child's vocabulary consists of about 10-15 words and grows daily.
 - The child still uses a combination of words and gestures to communicate, but are increasingly using more words.
 - Uses some simple questions such as "Where mommy?" or "Go bye-bye?"
-

2-3 Years

- Language is usually well developed and most children have a vocabulary of 100-200 words by two years of age, and 300-400 words by age three.
- The child understands differences in meaning (e.g. “stop-go”, “up-down”, “in-on”).
- Follows two step commands such as “Get the book and put it on the table.”
- The child has a word for almost everything and can use 2 or 3 word strings to talk about and ask for things.
- Uses *k, g, f, t, d* and *n* sounds.
- Speech is understood by familiar listeners most of the time (some unintelligible speech still present).
- Shows greater attention span enjoying listening to stories for longer periods of time.

3-4 Years

- Memory begins to improve and the child can recall recent things.
- The child uses and understands up to 1500 words and is able to form 3-4 word sentences.
- Pronouns and adjectives are used as well as some adverbs past tense and plurals.
- The child recognizes gender differences, plurals, pronouns, adjectives and colors.
- Most children can learn to count to three, and understand new concepts such as “what if...”.
- The child is usually able to talk easily without repeating syllables or words.

4-5 Years

- By age 5 the child is able to comprehend around 2000 words.
 - The child is able to form 4-6 word sentences and 3-4 syllable words.
 - Understands if, because, why and when.
 - Able to tell stories that stick to topic.
 - Says most sounds correctly except a few such as *l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh* and *th*.
 - Communicates easily with other children and adults.
 - The child pays attention to a short story and answers simple questions about them
 - Use of the same grammar as the rest of the family.
 - As language skills grow, the child begins to recite rhymes and songs from memory as well as begins to understand and enjoy jokes, riddles and silly songs.
-