

# Normal Speech and Language Developmental Milestones

## Receptive Language (Hearing and Understanding)

### BIRTH - 3 MONTHS

- Startles to loud sounds.
- Quiets or smiles when spoken to.
- Seems to recognize your voice and quiets if crying.
- Increases or decreases sucking behavior in respond to sound.

### 4 - 6 MONTHS

- Moves eyes in direction of sounds.
- Responds to change in tone of your voice
- Notices toys that make sounds.
- Pays attention to music.

### 12 - 24 MONTHS

- Points to a few body parts when asked.
- Listens to simple stories, songs and rhymes.
- Follows simple commands and understands ("Roll the ball", "Kiss the baby", "Where's your shoe?").
- Points to pictures in a book when named.

### 2 - 3 YEARS

- Follows two re-quests ("Get the book and put it on the table").
- Understands differences in meaning ("go-stop", "in-on", "big-little", "up-down").

### 3 - 4 YEARS

- Hears you when you call from another room.
- Hears television or radio at the same loudness
- Understands simple "wh" (who, what, where, why) questions.

### 4 - 5 YEARS

- Hears and understands most of what is said at home and in school.
- Pays attention to a short story and answers simple questions about it..

## Expressive Language (Talking)

### BIRTH - 3 MONTHS

- Makes pleasure sounds (cooing, gooing).
- Cries differently for different needs.
- Smiles when sees you.

### 4 - 6 Months

- Makes gurgling sounds when left alone and playing with you.
- Vocalizes excitement and displeasure.
- Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including p, b and m.

### 12 - 24 Months

- Uses some one- or two-word questions ("Where's kitty?", "Go bye-bye?", "What's that?").
- Says more words every month.
- Puts two words together ("more cookie", "no juice", "mommy book").
- Uses many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words.

### 2 - 3 Years

- Has a word for almost everything.
- Speech is understood by familiar listeners most of the time.
- Uses two- or three- word "sentences" to talk about and ask for things.
- Often asks for or directs attention to objects by naming them.

### 3 - 4 Years

- Talks about activities at school or at friend's homes.
- Uses a lot of sentences that have four or more words.
- Speaks clearly enough that people outside of the family usually understand his or her speech.
- Usually talks easily without repeating syllables or words.

### 4 - 5 Years

- Makes voice sounds clear like other children's.
- Tells stories that stick to topic.
- Says most sounds correctly (except perhaps certain ones such as l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th).
- Uses sentences that give lots of details (e.g. "I like to read my books").
- Communicates easily with other children and adults.
- Uses the same grammar as the rest of the family.