

LANGUAGE AND SPEECH

Developmental Milestones

A child's communication skills develop rapidly during the first years of life. The following are language and speech milestones that most children experience. However, every child's development is unique, and non-mastery of any one item within an age range does not necessarily signify the presence of a language or speech disorder.

BIRTH - 3 MOS

- Responds to Environmental sounds
- Recognizes familiar voices
- Smiles at familiar people
- Coos/goos when happy
- Distinct crying for different situations

4 - 6 MOS

- Looks in the direction of sounds
- Responds to tone of voice
- Babbles with many different sounds (including p, b, and m)
- Laughs and Gurgles
- Expresses excitement and displeasure

1 - 2 YEARS

- Points to body parts when asked
- Follows simple directions
- Understands simple questions
- Vocabulary increases every month
- Uses 1- and 2- word questions
- Puts two words together
- Uses many different consonant sounds

7 MOS - 1 YEAR

- Turns & looks in direction of sounds
- Listens to others' speech
- Recognizes common words
- Responds to simple requests
- Variegated babbling
- Gains attention without crying
- Uses gestures and imitates speech sounds
- Uses 1 to 2 words

2 - 3 YEARS

- Understands simple opposites (up/down, stop/go, etc)
- Follows 2-step directions
- Listens to stories
- Uses 2-3 word phrases
- Speech is usually understood by familiar listeners
- Names objects
- Asks "why?"
- May stutter on words and sounds

3 - 4 YEARS

- Uses 3-4 word sentences
- Understands family words
- Talks about events/activities that happened away from home
- Speech is mostly understandable
- Answers simple wh- questions
- Asks "when" and "how" questions
- Understands basic shapes and colors
- Uses pronouns and some plurals
- Speaks without stuttering

4 - 5 YEARS

- Understands sequencing and time words
- Follows complex instructions
- Hears and understands most of what is said to and around them
- Produces all speech sounds, but may make intermittent errors on l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, and/or th
- Names letters and numbers
- Tells short stories and maintains conversations
- Can adapt speech to listener

Questions/concerns? Contact us.

Beacon Therapy LLC

Guiding You to Better Communication

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Adapted from information provided by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
<http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/chart.htm>