

Speech & Language Milestone Chart

By Age One

- Milestones
 - Recognizes name
 - Says 2-3 words besides "mama" and "dada"
 - Imitates familiar words
 - Understands simple instructions
 - Recognizes words as symbols for objects: Car - points to garage, cat - meows
- Activities to Encourage your Child's Language
 - Respond to your child's coos, gurgles, and babbling
 - Talk to your child as you care for him or her throughout the day
 - Read colorful books to your child every day
 - Tell nursery rhymes and sing songs
 - Teach your child the names of everyday items and familiar people
 - Take your child with you to new places and situations
 - Play simple games with your child such as "peek-a-boo" and "pat-a-cake"

Between One and Two

- Milestones
 - Understands "no"
 - Uses 10 to 20 words, including names
 - Combines two words such as "daddy bye-bye"
 - Waves good-bye and plays pat-a-cake
 - Makes the "sounds" of familiar animals
 - Gives a toy when asked
 - Uses words such as "more" to make wants known
 - Points to his or her toes, eyes, and nose
 - Brings object from another room when asked
- Activities to Encourage your Child's Language
 - Reward and encourage early efforts at saying new words
 - Talk to your baby about everything you're doing while you're with him
 - Talk simply, clearly, and slowly to your child
 - Talk about new situations before you go, while you're there, and again when you are home
 - Look at your child when he or she talks to you
 - Describe what your child is doing, feeling, hearing
 - Let your child listen to children's records and tapes
 - Praise your child's efforts to communicate

Between Two and Three

- Milestones
 - Identifies body parts
 - Carries on 'conversation' with self and dolls
 - Asks "what's that?" And "where's my?"
 - Uses 2-word negative phrases such as "no want".
 - Forms some plurals by adding "s" book, books
 - Has a 450 word vocabulary
 - Gives first name, holds up fingers to tell age
 - Combines nouns and verbs "mommy go"
 - Understands simple time concepts: "last night", "tomorrow"
 - Refers to self as "me" rather than by name
 - Tries to get adult attention: "watch me"
 - Likes to hear same story repeated
 - May say "no" when means "yes"
 - Talks to other children as well as adults
 - Solves problems by talking instead of hitting or crying
 - Answers "where" questions
 - Names common pictures and things
 - Uses short sentences like "me want more" or "me want cookie"
 - Matches 3-4 colors, knows big and little
- Activities to Encourage your Child's Language
 - Repeat new words over and over
 - Help your child listen and follow instructions by playing games: "pick up the ball, " "Touch Daddy's nose"
 - Take your child on trips and talk about what you see before, during and after the trip
 - Let your child tell you answers to simple questions
 - Read books every day, perhaps as part of the bedtime routine
 - Listen attentively as your child talks to you
 - Describe what you are doing, planning, thinking
 - Have the child deliver simple messages for you (Mommy needs you, Daddy)
 - Carry on conversations with the child, preferably when the two of you have some quiet time together
 - Ask questions to get your child to think and talk
 - Show the child you understand what he or she says by answering, smiling, and nodding your head
 - Expand what the child says. If he or she says, "more juice", You say, "Adam wants more juice."

Between Three and Four

- Milestones
 - Can tell a story
 - Has a sentence length of 4-5 words
 - Has a vocabulary of nearly 1000 words
 - Names at least one color

- Understands "yesterday," "summer", "lunchtime", "tonight", "little-big"
- Begins to obey requests like "put the block under the chair"
- Knows his or her last name, name of street on which he/she lives and several nursery rhymes
- Activities to Encourage your Child's Language
 - Talk about how objects are the same or different
 - Help your child to tell stories using books and pictures
 - Let your child play with other children
 - Read longer stories to your child
 - Pay attention to your child when he's talking
 - Talk about places you've been or will be going

Between Four and Five

- Milestones
 - Has sentence length of 4-5 words
 - Uses past tense correctly
 - Has a vocabulary of nearly 1500 words
 - Points to colors red, blue, yellow and green
 - Identifies triangles, circles and squares
 - Understands "In the morning", "next", "noontime"
 - Can speak of imaginary conditions such as "I hope"
 - Asks many questions, asks "who?" and "why?"
- Activities to Encourage your Child's Language
 - Help your child sort objects and things (ex. things you eat, animals...)
 - Teach your child how to use the telephone
 - Let your child help you plan activities such as what you will make for Thanksgiving dinner
 - Continue talking with him about his interests
 - Read longer stories to him
 - Let her tell and make up stories for you
 - Show your pleasure when she comes to talk with you

Between Five and Six

- Milestones
 - Has a sentence length of 5-6 words
 - Has a vocabulary of around 2000 words
 - Defines objects by their use (you eat with a fork) and can tell what objects are made of
 - Knows spatial relations like "on top", "behind", "far" and "near"
 - Knows her address
 - Identifies a penny, nickel and dime
 - Knows common opposites like "big/little"
 - Understands "same" and "different"
 - Counts ten objects
 - Asks questions for information

- Distinguished left and right hand in herself
- Uses all types of sentences, for example "let's go to the store after we eat"
- Activities to Encourage your Child's Language
 - Praise your child when she talks about her feelings, thoughts, hopes and fears
 - Comment on what you did or how you think your child feels
 - Sing songs, rhymes with your child
 - Continue to read longer stories
 - Talk with him as you would an adult
 - Look at family photos and talk to him about your family history
 - Listen to her when she talks to you