### Developmental Milestones

#### 0-3 Months
- **Listening**
  - Startles with loud sounds
  - Smiles or quiets down in response to your voice
  - Starts to recognize your voice

- **Communication & Language Use**
  - Cries differently for varying needs
  - Makes cooing sounds (e.g. vowel sounds
  - Makes reflexive sounds (e.g. coughing, crying, burping)

- **Speech Sounds & Talking**
  - Smiles at people and when spoken to

#### 3-6 Months
- **Listening**
  - Eye gaze moves in direction of sounds
  - Recognizes and reacts to a difference in tone of voice (e.g. friendly vs angry voices)
  - Attends to music and toys that make sounds
  - Listens and watches you when you’re speaking

- **Communication & Language Use**
  - Starts to make sounds with lips together such as "raspberries"
  - Sound productions are constantly changing
  - Produces mostly vowels (e.g. "ah")
  - Some babbling appears (e.g. "bah-bah-bah")

- **Speech Sounds & Talking**
  - Babbles to gain attention
  - Establishes eye contact
  - Makes sounds that express mood

#### 6-12 Months
- **Listening**
  - Responds to sounds even when they cannot see the source
  - Moves to music
  - Responds to own name
  - Begins to understand common words for objects
  - Begins to respond to simple requests (e.g. "come here")

- **Communication & Language Use**
  - Points to direct attention toward an object
  - Using gestures to communicate (e.g. waving, reaching up, shaking head "no")
  - Says one or two words, like "mama" or "bye"

- **Speech Sounds & Talking**
  - Babbles with increased length using CVCV patterns (e.g. "papa" "mama")
  - New consonant sounds emerge, like /t, d, n/
  - New vowel sounds emerge
  - Imitates different speech sounds

- **Social Language**
  - Responds to no
  - Likes to look and smile in the mirror
  - Points to learn new vocabulary
  - Imitates rise and fall of voice
  - Uses sounds (e.g. shouting) and gestures to attract attention
  - Copies simple actions and plays cause-and-effect games (e.g. pat-a-cake, peek-a-boo, "so big!")
### SPEECH & LANGUAGE

**Developmental Milestones**

What should my child be doing at each age? Remember each child is unique and will develop at his or her own rate. Use the guide as a tool to learn what step is next.

#### LISTENING

- Follows simple one-step directions (e.g., “Get your toy”)
- Starts to understand spatial concepts (e.g., up, in, down)

#### COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE USE

- Has a vocabulary of around 2-6 words at 12 months
- Uses 1-2 words at a time to communicate
- Pairs gestures with words to communicate (e.g., reaching up and saying “up!”)
- Repeats words that are heard

#### SPEECH SOUNDS & TALKING

- Speech can be difficult to understand
- Continues to imitate speech sounds and words
- Beginning to use the following sounds: p, b, m, t, d, n, h, w, g, k, s, j

### SOCIAL LANGUAGE

- Continues actions when they are praised or when others laugh
- Engages in parallel play (playing next to someone, but not with them)
- Copies adult models during playtime
- Refers to themselves by their name (instead of saying “I”)
- Takes turns (“my turn, your turn”)
- Says “no” to protest

#### 12 – 18 MONTHS

- Understands and points to some body parts when prompted
- Reacts to questions like “where’s your book?” “Where’s mom?”
- Understands and points to vocabulary in pictures (e.g., in a book or on a flashcard)
- Attends to short stories

- Has a vocabulary of about 2-6 words at 12 months
- Uses 1-2 words at a time to communicate
- Pairs gestures with words to communicate (e.g., reaching up and saying “up!”)
- Repeats words that are heard

#### 18 – 24 MONTHS

- Understands and points to some body parts when prompted
- Reacts to questions like “where’s your book?” “Where’s mom?”
- Understands and points to vocabulary in pictures (e.g., in a book or on a flashcard)
- Attends to short stories

- Has a vocabulary of about 50-100 words around 18 months
- Starts to speak in 2 word phrases around 24 months (e.g., “Mommy shoe”)
- Uses mostly nouns
- Starts to ask simple questions (e.g., “what’s that?”)
- Pronouns used: I, it, my, me, mine, you

- Speech is understood 25-50% of the time to a familiar listener
- Produces 70% of the following sounds correctly: p, b, m, t, d, n, h, w, g, k, s, j
- Increases use of two-syllable words (e.g., “doggy” “yummy”)

- Attention to task during play increases to about 7 minutes
- Engages in self-talk during play
- Starts to use conversational words (e.g., hi, bye, please, and thank you) and gestures (waving “hi” or “bye”)
- Verbal turn taking increases
- Eye contact increases during interactions
- Increase in spontaneous speech and imitation

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WHAT SHOULD MY CHILD BE DOING AT EACH AGE? REMEMBER EACH CHILD IS UNIQUE AND WILL DEVELOP AT HIS OR HER OWN RATE. USE THE GUIDE AS A TOOL TO LEARN WHAT STEP IS NEXT.

**SPEECH & LANGUAGE**

**24–36 MONTHS**

**LISTENING**
- Follows two step commands (e.g. “Pick up the play doh and put it away”)
- Understands around 500–900 words
- Differentiates between “one” and “all”
- Understands directions involving adverbs and adjectives (e.g. “Run fast” or “Point to the big dog”)
- Responds to family related vocabulary, like sister or aunt
- Understands and selects pictures of verbs

**COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE USE**
- Vocabulary is increasing: uses about 200–300 words around 24 months
- Speaks in 2–3 word phrases
- Increases complexity when asking who, what, and where questions
- Pronouns used: your, he, she, yours, we
- Uses verb tense without a helping verb (“is*): (e.g. “Daddy eating”)
- Emergence of phrases with subject + verb + object (e.g. “Daddy throw ball”)
- Uses articles and conjunctions (“a, the, and, so, but, or”)
- Uses regular plural forms (e.g. “cats”)

**SPEECH SOUNDS & TALKING**
- Speech is understood 50–75% of the time to a familiar listener
- More consistent use of the following sounds: k, g, t, d, ng, f, y

**SPEECH & LANGUAGE**
- Stays on topic for longer periods of time
- Engages in short group activities
- Uses more language while playing
- Stories lack elements such as sequence and plot, but include descriptions and labels
- Communicates emotions and feelings verbally, instead of physically (e.g. says “Can I have that?” instead of grabbing)
- Associative play skills emerge (starting to engage with others during play, sharing, taking turns)

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### Developmental Milestones

**Speech & Language**

**What should my child be doing at each age?** Remember each child is unique and will develop at his or her own rate. Use the guide as a tool to learn what step is next.

#### 36-60 Months

**Listening**
- Responds when name is called from a distance
- Responds to basic wh-questions involving their surroundings or activities they’re engaged in (e.g. “What are you doing?”)
- Demonstrates increased listening skills
- Listens to stories of increased length and complexity

**Communication & Language Use**
- Vocabulary increases to around 1,000 words by 36 months
- Speaks in 3-4 word phrases
- Pronouns used: they, us, hers, his, them, her, its, our, him, myself, yourself, ours, their, theirs
- Uses irregular (e.g. drove, ate) and regular (e.g. walked) past tense verbs
- Irregular plurals emerging (e.g. “sheep”)
- Uses *is*
- Uses possessive: ‘s

#### 48-60 Months

- Starts to understand and answer simple questions about stories
- Recalls and repeats up to four digits said to them
- Repeats short sentences
- Follows 2-3 step commands

**Speech Sounds & Talking**
- Speech is understood 75-90% of the time to a familiar listener
- Starts to use sounds that start with: r, l, s
- Engages in cooperative play (playing with someone, securing their attention, communicating with them)
- Talks about events and actions that previously occurred (e.g. what they did yesterday)
- Able to separate from caregiver with greater ease
- Starts to engage in dramatic play, including dress-up, playing house, puppet shows, etc.
- Acts frustrated if they are not understood
- Stories are more organized, including a topic and sequenced elements
- Gives a request with a justification (e.g. “Come here! I want to play!”)
- Asks peers to join in play or activities
- Uses words to protest and compromise during play
- Uses imagination when talking i.e. “when I grow up…”
- Stories continue to increase in complexity, and may involve a plot
- Repeats their message if misunderstood
- Starts to understand and use gender relationships (i.e. relating colors or topics to a specific gender)

**Social Language**

**36-60 MONTHS**

- Vocabulary increases to around 1,000 words by 36 months
- Speaks in 3-4 word phrases
- Pronouns used: they, us, hers, his, them, her, its, our, him, myself, yourself, ours, their, theirs
- Uses irregular (e.g. drove, ate) and regular (e.g. walked) past tense verbs
- Irregular plurals emerging (e.g. “sheep”)
- Uses *is*
- Uses possessive: ‘s

**48-60 MONTHS**

- Vocabulary increases to 1,600 words by 48 months
- Phrases continue to increase in length, to 4+ words
- Pronouns used: herself, himself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves
- Uses vocabulary like ‘if, so, could, would’ in sentences
- Uses comparative -er (e.g. “smaller, faster”)
- Emerging grammar skills in sentences
- Has a vocabulary of 2,200-2,500 words at 60 months

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