

Speech-Language Milestones Birth to 5 Years



speech therapy

ALLYSON WEINSTEIN-ROSEN MS CCC-SLP

Birth to 12 Months

0-3 MONTHS

- Alerts to sound
- Recognizes voices and faces of caregivers
- Makes cooing sounds (i.e. ooo, aaah, mmm)
- Turns toward voices and sounds
- Begins trying to verbally communicate (makes sounds back and forth with caregivers)

4-6 MONTHS

- Vocalizes during play and explores objects with their mouths.
- Cooing includes consonants (i.e. maaa, guuu, aaam)
- Responds to facial expressions
 - Blows raspberries
 - Giggles and laughs
 - May begin to recognize their name



- Responds to their name being called.
- Begins to understand “No”
- Seeks caregivers when upset
- Strings together and repeats sounds containing both vowels and consonants (i.e. mumumum, bababa, papapa)
- Recognizes the names of some people and familiar objects

7-9 MONTHS

- Responds to short phrases (i.e. night night, go bye-bye, come to mamma)
- Tries to copy sounds

- Consistently use one word phrases correctly (ie. hi, bye, mama, dada, baba, no)
- Imitates gestures (i.e. blowing kisses, waving)
- Gestures at objects

10-12 MONTHS

12 Months to 18 Months

- Uses correct facial expressions and gestures on their own (i.e. shakes head for no, nods for yes, waves on their own, claps when excited) and combines them with words.
- Points and gestures to make requests, comments, or to answer questions.

- Understands and correctly uses words for familiar objects, people, and activities (i.e. mommy, sit, bed, nap, juice)
- Begins speech like babble in attempt to string together sentences.
 - Identifies body parts on others and themselves



- Begins to explore the world more with their hands and words as well as by placing objects in their mouths.
- Finds simple objects and people when requested (i.e. where is your cup, go find daddy, pick up teddy)

- Mimics simple words and sounds with similar inflections and emotion.
- Begins to ask “what” questions.
- Responds correctly to yes or no questions.
- Understands approximately 50 words.
- Maintains eye contact when talking and playing.

19 Months to 24 Months

- Has a vocabulary of about 50 words that they use consistently for familiar objects, activities, and people.
- Consistently makes 2 word sentences and phrases
- Minimal drooling when not sleeping or teething

- Can follow 2-step directions (i.e. find your cup and give it to me)
- Uses words to ask for help
- Understands and uses simple pronouns (i.e. me, you, my)
- Begins to self sooth when upset but not hurt



- Engages in cooperative play with other children
- Does not usually explore objects with their mouths and use their hands and language instead.

- Uses possessives (i.e my ball, your nose)
- Drops syllables from longer words (boon=balloon), may substitutes consonants (gar=car), or may drop them (ha=hat, cool=school)

2 Years to 3 Years

- Asks what, where, why, and how questions. Also can accurately answer these questions.
- Understands most simple sentences
- Displays basic reasoning skills (i.e. blows on hot food, asks for a coat when cold)

- Correctly says vowels in words
- Can pronounce B, D, H, M, N, P, & W sounds in words
- Begins to use -ing and -ed verbs
- Uses plural nouns for familiar words
- Understands basic nouns and pronouns



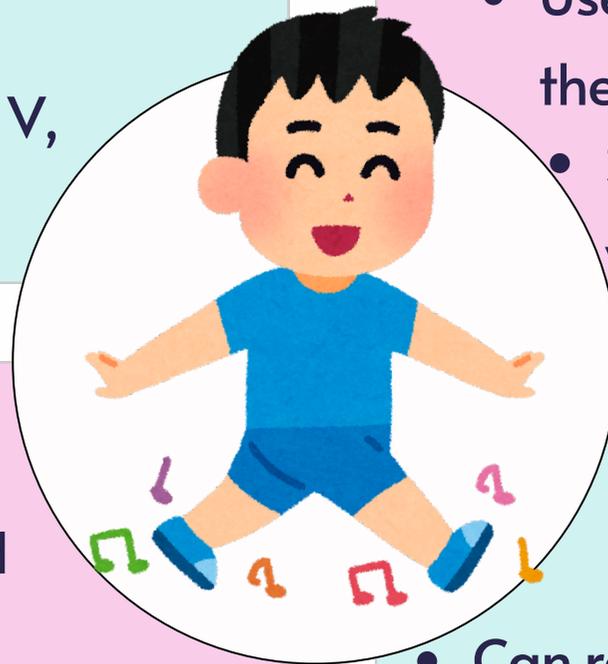
- Asks for attention by saying “look at me” or “look at this”
- Will repeat words or phrases when putting a sentence together (i.e. I want- I want -I -I want to play)
- Begins using prepositions (i.e. in, on, to, for)

- Asks for attention by saying “look at me” or “look at this”
- Correctly produces vowel sounds in simple words
- Speech should be easily understandable by closest caregivers, but may be unclear to less familiar people

3 Years to 4 Years

- Can produce many consonant clusters (i.e. “sk” in school, “tw” in twinkle)
- Are mostly understood by anyone who talks to them
- May display errors in pronouncing J, L, R, S, V, Z, CH, SH, and TH.

- Can speak smoothly without frequently repeating words or sounds
- Correctly uses simple positional words (i.e. in, under, on)
 - Uses articles with nouns (i.e. the, a)
 - Says all of the syllables in a word.



- Can summarize or retell stories that they have heard or watched
- Begins to use comparative adjectives (i.e. smaller, colder) and can correctly verbally rank the world around them (i.e. the car is big, the house is bigger)

- Correctly produces F, G, K, T, Y sounds in words
- Can recognize letters of the alphabet and write some of them
- Will sit alone to write or read. If your child does not know how to do either they will pretend to

4 Years to 5 Years

- Produces longer, grammatically correct sentences
- Begins to recognize and use irregular plural nouns correctly (i.e. foot vs feet, person vs people, etc)
- Can recognize and come up with rhymes

- Produces most consonants correctly and is easily understood by everyone.
- Can recognize speech errors and if a word is hard for them.
- Can recognize and recite the alphabet.
- Regularly uses and or then to add details.



- Uses words related to time correctly (i.e. tomorrow, yesterday, tonight)
- Understands and uses complex positional words (i.e. between, beside, behind)
- Can follow simple directions and rules to games

- Can write and spell their own name
- Can take turns when speaking and holds a conversation.
- Can tell stories and identify the characters, setting, and connecting details.