

Developmental Milestones: Speech and Language

	Hearing and Understanding	Talking
Birth-3 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Startles to loud sounds. Quiets or smiles when spoken to. Seems to recognize caregiver's voice and quiets if crying. Increases or decreases sucking behavior in response to sound. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes pleasure sounds (cooing, gooing). Cries differently for different needs. Smiles when sees primary caregiver(s).
4-6 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moves eyes in direction of sounds. Responds to changes in the tone of the caregiver's voice. Notices toys that make sounds. Pays attention to music. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including <i>p</i>, <i>b</i> and <i>m</i>. Chuckles and laughs. Vocalizes excitement and displeasure. Makes gurgling sounds when left alone and while playing with their caregiver.
7 Months-1 Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enjoys games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake. Turns and looks in direction of sounds. Listens when spoken to. Recognizes words for common items like "cup", "shoe", "book", or "juice." Begins to respond to requests. (i.e. "Come here" or "Want more?") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbling has both long and short groups of sounds such as "tata upup bibibibi." Uses speech or non-crying sounds to get and keep attention. Uses gestures to communicate (waving, holding arms to be picked up). Imitates different speech sounds. Has one or two words (hi, dog, dada, mama) around first birthday, although sounds may not be clear.
1-2 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points to a few body parts when asked. Follows simple commands and understands simple questions ("Roll the ball," "Kiss the baby," "Where's your shoe?"). Listens to simple stories, songs, and rhymes. Points to pictures in a book when named. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a word for almost everything. Uses two- or three- words to talk about and ask for things. Uses <i>k</i>, <i>g</i>, <i>f</i>, <i>t</i>, <i>d</i>, and <i>n</i> sounds. Speech is understood by familiar listeners most of the time. Often asks for or directs attention to objects by naming them.
2-3 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands differences in meaning ("go-stop," "in-on," "big-little," "up-down"). Follows two requests ("Get the book and put it on the table"). Listens to and enjoys hearing stories for longer periods of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a word for almost everything. Uses two- or three- word sentences to talk about and ask for things. Uses <i>k</i>, <i>g</i>, <i>f</i>, <i>t</i>, <i>d</i>, and <i>n</i> sounds. Speech is understood by familiar listeners most of the time. Often asks for or directs attention to objects by naming them.
3-4 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hears when someone calls them from another room. Hears television or radio at the same loudness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talks about activities at school or at friends' homes. People outside of the family usually

	<p>level as other family members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers simple "who?," "what?," "where?" and "why?" questions. 	<p>understand child's speech.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses a lot of sentences that have four or more words. Usually talks easily without repeating syllables or words.
<p>4-5 Years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pays attention to a short story and answers simple questions about them. Hears and understands most of what is said at home and in school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses sentences that give lots of details ("The biggest peach is mine"). Tells stories that stick to topic. Communicates easily with other children and adults. Says most sounds correctly except a few like <i>l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th</i>. Says rhyming words. Names some letters and numbers. Uses the same grammar as the rest of the family.