## Developmental Milestones: Speech and Language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Hearing and Understanding</th>
<th>Talking</th>
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| **Birth-3 Months** | - 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. | - Makes pleasure sounds (cooing, gooing).  
- Cries differently for different needs.  
- Smiles when sees primary caregiver(s). |
| **4-6 Months** | - 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. | - Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including p, b and m.  
- Chuckles and laughs.  
- Vocalizes excitement and displeasure.  
- Makes gurgling sounds when left alone and while playing with their caregiver. |
| **7 Months-1 Year** | - 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?") | - Babbling has both long and short groups of sounds such as "tata upup bibibili."  
- 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** | - 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. | - Has a word for almost everything.  
- Uses two- or three- word sentences to talk about and ask for things.  
- Uses k, g, f, t, d, and n 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** | - 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. | - Has a word for almost everything.  
- Uses two- or three- word sentences to talk about and ask for things.  
- Uses k, g, f, t, d, and n 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** | - Hears when someone calls them from another room.  
- Hears television or radio at the same loudness | - Talks about activities at school or at friends’ homes.  
- People outside of the family usually
| 4-5 Years | level as other family members.  
| - Uses a lot of sentences that have four or more words.  
| - Usually talks easily without repeating syllables or words. |  
| - 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. |  
| - 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 l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th.  
| - Says rhyming words.  
| - Names some letters and numbers.  
| - Uses the same grammar as the rest of the family. |