

SPEECH & LANGUAGE MILESTONES

Information compiled by



PALABRAS
— SPEECH THERAPY —

This communication milestones checklist shows the ages when at least 75% of American English-speaking children have developed certain skills. Check the milestones your child is expected to have met by their current age. If your child does not meet many of the milestones within their age range, find an ASHA- certified speech- language pathologist for an evaluation.

0-12 months

- Points, waves, and gives objects
- Imitates and initiates gestures for engaging
- Tries to copy sounds you make
- Responds to simple words and phrases like "go bye- bye"
- Says one or two words like "mama", "dada", "hi", and "bye".

13-18 months

- Follows directions like "give me the ball" and "come here".
- Points to make requests, comment, or get information
- Understands and uses words for common objects, people, and some actions
- Uses a combination of long strings of sounds

19-24 months

- Uses and understands at least 50 words
- Puts together 2 or more words like "more water" or "go outside"
- Follows 2- step directions like "get the spoon and put it on the table"
- Uses words to get help
- Uses words like "me", "mine", and "you"

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Developmental milestones are things most children (75% or more) can do by a certain age. Check the milestones your child is expected to have by their current age. If your child is not meeting 1+ milestones, has lost skills they once had, or you have other concerns, act early. Talk with your child's doctor, share your concerns, and ask about developmental screening.

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2-3
years

- Says their name
- Uses some plural words
- Uses -ing verbs
- Gives reasons for things & events like saying they need a coat if it's cold
- Asks *why* and *how*
- Answers questions like *"What do you do when you're sleepy?"*
- Uses word combinations like *"I want juice"*

3-4
years

- Tells you a story from a book or video
- Compares things with words like *"bigger"*
- Uses location words like *"inside", "on", & "under"*
- Says all syllables in a word
- Pretends to read alone or with others
- Talks smoothly with few sound or word repetitions

4-5
years

- Produces grammatically correct sentences that are longer and complex
- Uses more words for time like *"yesterday"* and *"tomorrow"* correctly
- Uses location words like *"behind"* & *"between"*
- Is totally understood by others when they talk
- Follows simple directions & rules to play a game