



# Language & Communication

## DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES CHECKLISTS

	RECEPTIVE	EXPRESSIVE
0-3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Startles at loud sounds</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Quiets or smiles when spoken to</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Starts to turn eyes or head toward sounds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cries; by 3 months will start to make different cries for different needs (hungry, tired)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Makes pleasure sounds (coos and goos)</li> </ul>
3-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Responds to changes in tone of voice</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begins to turn in response to name</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Responds to music and singing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Laughs aloud</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Starts to babble with sounds like p, b, m</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Vocalizes to get attention, express displeasure, show eagerness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Produces raspberries, squeals, trills</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> May start to imitate sounds s/he hears</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Takes turns making sounds with others</li> </ul>
6-9 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Watches your face when you talk</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands 3-50 words</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes the sight of spoon, bottle</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Starts to recognize names of family members</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands “hi” and “bye”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Starts to understand “no”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Does reduplicative babbling (e.g., “bababa”, “gagaga”)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Babbles with inflection and rhythmic patterns</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> May start to clap hands and bang purposefully to make noise</li> </ul>
9-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes name</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Participates in language games such as peek-a-boo and patty cake</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands name of 1 body part</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> recognizes words as symbols for objects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> By 12 months, has 1-2 words including sounds with meaning such as “Mama”, “Dada”, “Uh-oh”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Imitates familiar sounds</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Produces true words during sound play</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses several gestures like showing, giving, waving, and pointing</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Babbles with imitation of real speech and with expression</li> </ul>
12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands names of many objects</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> points to several body parts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Follows simple commands with gestures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> shows early pretend play (e.g., uses spoon as telephone)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses 5-50 words, including names</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Points to show something s/he wants</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Shakes head and says “no”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> May start to combine words (e.g., “more cookie”, “car go”)</li> </ul>

## RECEPTIVE

## EXPRESSIVE

18-24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begins to understand simple prepositions (e.g., “in” vs. “out”, “up” vs. “down”)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Points to things or pictures when they are named</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Follows simple instructions without gestures</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Points to objects in a book</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> By 24 months should be regularly combining words.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses words like “more” to make wants known</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Makes sounds of familiar animals</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Repeats words overheard</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Produces 25-200 words</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses 1 pronoun (e.g., “me”, “mine”)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can name objects common to surroundings</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses at least 2 prepositions (e.g., “up”, “in”)</li> </ul>
2-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Matches 3-4 colors</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands “big” and “little”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Likes to hear same story repeated</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Follows instructions with 2 steps</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands words like “in,” “on,” and “under”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begins to understand “what” and “where” questions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands simple questions dealing with his/her environment and activities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identifies objects by function (e.g., “Show me what we eat with”)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Names body parts</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can say ~200-900 words</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses short sentences</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Asks questions like “What’s that?” or “Where’s my ___?”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses quantitative words (e.g., “some”, “one”, “more”)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Says first name, age, and sex</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Says words like “I,” “me,” “we,” and “you” and some plurals (cars, dogs, cats)<sup>2,3,4</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Carries on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> May carry on pretend conversation between self and dolls/stuffed animals</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses 2 word negative phrases such as “no want”</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Talks to other children as well as adults</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Speech is understood by most listeners most of the time</li> </ul>
3-4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands up to 1500 words by age 4</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can group objects according to category</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can follow commands with modifiers (e.g., “Walk slowly to the car”)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands names of different kinds of animals</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands 4 different prepositions.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands one or more colors</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Understands concepts such as “longer” (vs. “shorter”) and “larger”(vs. “smaller”) when the contrast is presented</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Follows simple instructions even when stimulus objects are not present (e.g., “Go to the kitchen and get your shoes”)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Beginning to understand time concepts (last night, tomorrow, yesterday, summer)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can tell a story and relate events and experiences.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses sentences of 4-5 words.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Says 1000 words</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Answers simple who, what, where, why questions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sings a song or says a poem from memory such as the “Itsy Bitsy Spider” or the “Wheels on the Bus”<sup>3</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can say first and last name when asked.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Speech is 90% intelligible with context</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Uses language for imaginative play</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Asks questions, makes requests,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Can repeat words with 4 syllables</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Has most vowels and diphthongs and consonants p, b, m, w, n well established</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Names at least 1 or more colors correctly.</li> </ul>