



Language & Communication

DEVELOPMENTAL CHECKLIST

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

Receptive Skills

Expressive Skills

12-18
MONTHS

- Understands names of many objects
- points to several body parts
- Follows simple commands with gestures

- shows early pretend play (e.g., uses spoon as telephone)
- Uses 5-50 words, including names
- Points to show something s/he wants
- Shakes head and says “no”
- May start to combine words (e.g., “more cookie”, “car go”)

18-24
MONTHS

- Begins to understand simple prepositions (e.g., “in” vs. “out”, “up” vs. “down”)
- Points to things or pictures when they are named
- Follows simple instructions without gestures
- Points to objects in a book

- By 24 months should be regularly combining words.
- Uses words like “more” to make wants known
- Makes sounds of familiar animals
- Repeats words overheard
- Produces 25-200 words
- Uses 1 pronoun (e.g., “me”, “mine”)
- Can name objects common to surroundings
- Uses at least 2 prepositions (e.g., “up”, “in”)

2-3
YEARS

- Matches 3-4 colors
- Understands “big” and “little”
- Likes to hear same story repeated
- Follows instructions with 2 steps
- Understands words like “in,” “on,” and “under”
- Begins to understand “what” and “where” questions
- Understands simple questions dealing with his/her environment and activities
- Identifies objects by function (e.g., “Show me what we eat with”)

- Names body parts
- Can say ~200-900 words
- Uses short sentences
- Asks questions like “What’s that?” or “Where’s my ___?”
- Uses quantitative words (e.g., “some”, “one”, “more”)
- Says first name, age, and sex
- Says words like “I,” “me,” “we,” and “you” and some plurals (cars, dogs, cats)^{2,3,4}
- Carries on a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences
- May carry on pretend conversation between self and dolls/stuffed animals
- Uses 2 word negative phrases such as “no want”
- Talks to other children as well as adults
- Speech is understood by most listeners most of the time

3-4
YEARS

- Understands up to 1500 words by age 4
- Can group objects according to category
- Can follow commands with modifiers (e.g., “Walk slowly to the car”)
- Understands names of different kinds of animals
- Understands 4 different prepositions.
- Understands one or more colors
- Understands concepts such as “longer” (vs. “shorter”) and “larger”(vs. “smaller”) when the contrast is presented
- Follows simple instructions even when stimulus objects are not present (e.g., “Go to the kitchen and get your shoes”)
- Beginning to understand time concepts (last night, tomorrow, yesterday, summer)

- Can tell a story and relate events and experiences.
- Uses sentences of 4-5 words.
- Says 1000 words
- Answers simple who, what, where, why questions
- Sings a song or says a poem from memory such as the “Itsy Bitsy Spider” or the “Wheels on the Bus” 3
- Can say first and last name when asked.
- Speech is 90% intelligible with context
- Uses language for imaginative play
- Asks questions, makes requests,
- Can repeat words with 4 syllables
- Has most vowels and diphthongs and consonants p, b, m, w, n well established
- Names at least 1 or more colors correctly.