

Speech and Language Development Checklist

3 Months

Cries and grunts; has different cries for different needs

- Makes a lot of cooing and gooing sounds
- Responds to parent/caregiver voice
- Takes a turn by looking, waiting, and making facial expressions during singing and tickling games
- Turns toward sounds
- Startles at sudden loud noises
- Watches faces. Loves smiles and sing-song voices. Is afraid of loud, angry voices
- Smiles and laughs when familiar parent smiles and laughs

6 Months

- Startled by loud or sudden noises
- Responds when name is called
- Babbles; i.e., “Ba-ba-ba”, “goo-goo”, squeals for attention
- Recognizes familiar faces and objects
- Enjoys games like “peek-a-boo”, tickling games
- Reaches for, holds, and puts toys in mouth
- Smiles and laughs in response to parents’ smiles and laughter

12 Months

- Uses 3 to 5 different words

- ☒ Follows simple instructions; i.e., “Sit down”, “Don’t touch”
- ☒ Understands “no,” and simple requests “Where is your ball?”
- ☒ Imitates sounds (“Whee!”, “uh-oh!”) and actions (wave, head shake)
- ☒ Gets attention by looking at your eyes while using sounds, pointing, bringing things to show you
- ☒ Tries to sing along with music

18 Months

- ☒ Follows simple instructions (i.e., Show me the... Give me the...)
- ☒ Points to 3 body parts upon request (i.e., eyes, nose, mouth)
- ☒ Understands more words than she can say
- ☒ Uses at least 20 words consistently; words do not have to be clear i.e., “Mama” or “ba” for “ball”
- ☒ Says “No”
- ☒ Asks for something by pointing and using sounds or words (points to cookie and says, “num num”)

2 Years

- ☒ Uses 100- 150 words and combines two to four words in phrases (e.g., “moe tee” for “more cheese,” “Truck go down.”)
- ☒ Follows 2-step instructions: “Go find your teddy and show it to Grandma.”
- ☒ Answers questions correctly with “yes” or “no”
- ☒ Begins to offer toys to other children and to imitate other children

☒ Uses many different speech sounds at beginning of words (p,b,m,t,d,n,h,w)

☒ Asks “What’s that?” and “Where?”

30 Months

☒ Uses more than 350 words

☒ Understands words that describe (hot, big, little, sticky, wet, a little, a lot, more)

☒ Uses “I,” “You,” “Mine” and “Me”

☒ Uses some adult grammar: “Two cookies,” “Bird flying,” “Daddy’s car.”

☒ Enjoys being around other children and takes short turns with them

☒ Uses words to answer “What” and “Where” questions (“What is he/she doing?” “Where’s the baby?”)

☒ Remembers and understands familiar stories

3 Years

☒ Understands same/different, one/all, heavy, night/day

☒ Enjoys pretend play and playing with other children

☒ Talks about something that happened in the past (e.g., trip to Grandma’s)

☒ Says 4-7 words in a sentence “I want my red ball”

☒ Understands and asks “Who?” “What?” “Where?” and “Why?” questions

☒ Adults outside of family understand at least half of what child says

4 Years

☒ Follows three-step instructions; i.e., “Get your boots, put them on and go outside.”

- ☐ Tells stories with a clear beginning, middle and end, and can anticipate what will happen next in a story
- ☐ Uses adult-type grammar
- ☐ Starts a conversation and keeps it going on the same topic for three turns
- ☐ Answers “Who?” “How?” and “How many?” questions
- ☐ Says the following sounds correctly in words: k,y,f,g,d,t