

Expressive Language (Speech)

Receptive Language (Hearing & Understanding)

By 3 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Maintains eye contact when spoken to □ Cries differently for different needs, e.g. hungry vs. tired □ Coos, goes, and smiles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Shows awareness of a speaker □ Watches speaker's mouth or eyes □ Quiets or smiles when spoken to 	By 3 Months
By 6 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Begins babbling with p, b, and m sounds □ Vocalizes to gain attention and express feelings □ Uses and produces different kinds of sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Turns head to follow direction of sound □ Listens and responds when spoken to □ Notices toys that make sounds 	By 6 Months
By 9 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Produces 4+ sounds in babbling □ Participates in vocal turn taking □ Begins using hand movements to communicate wants and needs e.g. reaches to be picked up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Consistently responds to own name □ Looks at familiar objects and people when named □ Follows some routine commands paired with gestures 	By 9 Months
By 12 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Says one or two words, e.g. "mama", "dada", "bye-bye" □ Imitates speech sounds □ Produces jargon: strings of speech-like babbling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Understands up to 50 words □ Responds to simple directions, e.g. "come here" □ Joint attention: follows your gaze and points 	By 12 Months
By 15 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ May use 4-6 different words □ Imitates simple familiar words and sounds □ Combines sounds and gestures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Consistently follows simple directions □ Maintains attention to pictures □ Can identify 1-2 body parts when named 	By 15 Months
By 18 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Uses 20 words (mostly nouns) □ Responds to questions □ Continues to produce jargon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Points at familiar objects and people in pictures □ Understands early direction words (in, on) □ Responds to yes/no questions with head shake/nod 	By 18 Months
By 21 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Uses words more than gestures □ Consistently imitates new words □ Vocabulary of 20-50 single words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Understands some emotion words (happy, sad) □ Understands some pronouns (me, you, my) □ Identifies 3-5 body parts when named 	By 21 Months
By 24 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Uses at least 50 words □ Beginning to use 2-word phrases □ Uses early pronouns (me, you, my) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Understands more than 300 words □ Understands action words □ Enjoys listening to stories 	By 24 Months
By 30 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Consistently uses 2-3 word phrases □ Produces direction words (in, on) □ At least 50% of speech is understood by caregiver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Follows 2-step directions, e.g. "pick up your coat and bring it to me" □ Consistently understands basic nouns, verbs, pronouns □ Understands mine and yours 	By 30 Months
By 36 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Produces 4-5 word sentences □ Uses plurals, e.g. "dogs" □ Most speech is understood by caregiver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Understands opposites (big/small, hot/cold) □ Simple understanding of concepts like color, space, time □ Recognizes how objects are used 	By 36 Months