

# COMMUNICATION MILESTONES

Adapted from the American  
Speech-Language-Hearing Association

## Birth - 1 Year

- Coos and makes sounds back and forth with you (birth-3 mos)
- Vocalizes vowel sounds (4-6 mos)
- Babbles strings of sounds (7-9 mos)
- Imitates and uses gestures like blowing kisses, peek-a-boo, waving, pointing (10-12 mos)
- Imitates different sounds you make (10-12 mos)
- Says 1-2 words (e.g., hi, bye, mama, dada) by 12 mos.

## 1 - 2 Years

- Follows 1-step directions like "Give me the ball" (13-18 mos)
- Shakes head for "no" and nods head for "yes" (13-18 mos)
- Milestone is 10 words (average is 50 words) by 18 mos
- Follows 2-step directions like "Get the spoon & put it on the table" (19-24 mos)
- Milestone is 50 words (average is 300 words) by 24 mos
- Puts 2 or more words together (19-24 mos)

## 2 - 3 Years

- Uses phrases and short sentences
- Uses some plural nouns, possessive nouns, -ing verbs, and -ed past tense verbs
- Answers and asks simple wh- questions (e.g., what, who, where)
- Can correctly produce the speech sounds P, B, T, D, K, G, M, N, NG, H, W, Y, F
- Engages in pretend play

## 3 - 4 Years

- Engages in back and forth conversation using sentences
- Retells stories and past events
- Takes turns and shares toys with peers
- Others can understand 75% of what your child says by age 3 and 90% by age 4
- Can correctly produce the speech sounds V, L, S, Z, SH, CH, J by age 4

## 4 - 5 Years

- Produces longer and more complex sentences
- Uses more location words (e.g., behind, next to) and time words (e.g., yesterday, tomorrow) correctly
- Answers and asks all wh- questions, including how questions
- Identifies some rhyming words
- Can correctly produce R and voiced TH by age 5 (voiceless TH is a 6-year-old milestone)



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