

Speech and Language Checklist

Around 1 year old...

- _____ Make many different sounds together, as though really talking
- _____ Imitate or use sounds/gestures (e.g. “Oh-oh,” “bye bye,” “Wee!”)
- _____ Say 3 to 5 words (e.g. “mama,” “dada,” or “doo” for “juice”)
- _____ Follow simple instructions (e.g. “sit down” or “come here”)
- _____ Understand some words that go with gestures (e.g. “give me” as you extend your hand)
- _____ Bring you toys to show you and/or to play with

Around 18 months...

- _____ Use 20 or more words and adding new words weekly (e.g. “no,” “ball,” “more,” “up”)
- _____ Begin to put 2 words together (e.g. “What’s that?” “No juice”)
- _____ Answer “What’s this?” questions with true words like “car,” “dog,” or “book”
- _____ Make these sounds: p, b, m, n, d, g
- _____ Understand more words than they can say
- _____ Follow simple instructions without gestures (e.g. “Show me the book” and “Give me the shoe”)
- _____ Point to 3 body parts (e.g. eyes, nose, and mouth)
- _____ Use toys for pretend play (e.g. uses a block as a car)

Around 2 years...

- _____ Use 150 to 300 different words.
- _____ Use 2 pronouns (e.g. I, me, you)
- _____ Use two-word combinations most of the time. (e.g. “me go” or “more cookie” or “Daddy car”)
- _____ Speak clearly enough to be understood about 2/3 of the time
- _____ Point to familiar actions/activities in pictures (e.g. sleeping, eating)
- _____ Follow directions to put objects “on,” “off” or “in”
- _____ Choose among common objects when asked, (e.g. “Find the comb”)

Around 2 ½ years...

- _____ Use at least 450 different words
- _____ Begin to use verbs with “ing” endings (e.g. eating)
- _____ Say their first name when asked
- _____ Answer questions like “Where is Teddy?” and “What is Mommy doing?”
- _____ Use sentences of up to 3 words combining nouns and verbs (e.g. “Daddy go car.”)
- _____ Understand concepts such as “big” and “little”
- _____ Begin to point to objects from a group by their function and parts (e.g. “Which one has wheels?” “Which one can we eat?”)

Around 3 years old...

- _____ Use 900 to 1000 different words.
- _____ Use sentences of 3 or more words
- _____ Ask questions like “Who?” “Where?” and “Why?”
- _____ Talk about things that happened in the past
- _____ Tell a simple story
- _____ Speak clearly enough for people outside the family to understand most of the time
- _____ Put sounds at the beginning and end of most words
- _____ Follow two-part directions without gestures (e.g. “Go to the kitchen and get your hat”)

Around 4 years old...

- _____ Use 4 to 5 word sentences that have adult-like grammar
- _____ Tell a story that is easy to follow, with a beginning middle and end
- _____ Predict what might happen next in a new story
- _____ Give first and last name, gender and age
- _____ Use most consonant and vowel sounds correctly
- _____ Speak clearly enough to be understood by people outside the family all of the time
- _____ Follow three-part directions (e.g. “Get your boots, put them on, and wait at the door”)