

NORMAL SPEECH & LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

An individual child may not follow this timetable exactly, however, it may be used as a general guide in helping to identify speech and language problems at an early age.

Age	Ability to Understand	Expressive Language
3-6 months	seeks sound source; smiles in response to speech, recognizes bottle	babbling begins; vocalize pleasure; displeasure
7-9 months	responds to "no"; responds to gestures; pat-a-cake, bye-bye	/m, n, t, d, b, p, z/ babbling; multiple syllables (maybe "mamma", "dada"), imitates speech sounds
10-12 months	begins to relate object and name; follows simple commands regarding body action; responds to own name consistently	may acquire 1st true word; (10-18 months); sentence-like intonations (jargon) begin; uses all sounds in vocal play
1-1.5 years	simple 1-step commands; recognizes some body parts, objects	3-20 single words; jargon; gestures
1.5- 2 years	200-300 words; simple yes/no questions	uses 20-60 recognizable words; 2-word combinations ("daddy car", "more milk"); 65% intelligible by 2 years
2-3 years	800-900 words; why, what, where questions; listens to short stories	uses 200-500 words; 3-4 words sentences ("daddy drive car", "I want to play"); grammar emerging; 70-80%intelligible
3-4 years	1200-1500 words; understands comparisons (big, little); responds to 2-part commands	uses 800-1500 words; 4-5 words sentences; question asking stage
4-5 years	2500 words; answers complex questions; some color/number concepts	uses 1500-2000 words; very intelligible in connected speech; 4-8 words sentences (grammar refined); tells long stories