

Language Developmental Milestones

Age	Listening Skills	Speaking Skills
1-2 Years	• Points to 3-4 body parts when asked (nose, ears, belly, toes). • Follows a variety of 1-step directions, like "put your shoes on." • Understands simple question types, such as who and where questions. • Listens to stories and music. • Points to pictures in book when named.	• Uses & imitates new words frequently. • Uses early developing speech sounds b, p, m, h, w. • Spontaneously names pictures in books. • Asks questions, such as "what's that?" • Combines two-words into phrases, such as "mommy go."
2-3 Years	• Understands basic concepts/opposites, such as stop/go, hot/cold, big/small. • Follows 2-step directions, like "Pick up the toy and put it in the basket." • Learns new words and concepts quickly.	• Has a word for most objects at home. • Talks about objects/people that are not in the room. • Uses 2-3 word phrases to communicate. • Uses the sounds k, g, f, t, d, n within words.
3-4 Years	• Responds when you call them from another room. • Identifies colors by pointing. • Recognizes & matches different shapes. • Recognizes rhyming words.	• Answers who, what, where questions. • Uses pronouns (he, they) and plurals • Uses 4-5 word sentences that most people understand. • Talks about what happened that day.

Age	Listening Skills	Speaking Skills
4-5 Years	• Understands sequencing words, like first/next/last. • Understands temporal concepts, such as today, yesterday, tomorrow. • Follows multi-step directions. • Understands most of what is said at school and at home.	• Names letters and numbers. • Uses compound sentences (I got a new bike and I rided it to the lake). • Tells a short story with 3-4 sentences. • Participates in conversations for multiple turns.
5-6 Years	• Follows 3-steps directions. • Answers questions about a story after listening to it read aloud. • Answers factual and inferential questions. • Understands most conversations that they hear.	• Begins to master grammatical rules. • Attempts to sound out words when reading. • Uses complex sentences with words like 'because' and 'when'. • Speaks similarly to adults in their lives.

Please note that all children develop at different rates. This chart represents the age when most children meet milestones. Children should meet all milestones within an age range once they reach the top of the age range. Missing one skill within each age range does not necessarily mean there is a problem; however, if you answer 'no' to most of the items within your child's age group, you may want to seek a speech and language evaluation.

- American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASHA): <https://www.asha.org/slp/schools/prof-consult/norms/>
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>