



eyes open
ears on



EYES OPEN EARS ON HANDBOOK

SPEECH & LANGUAGE MILESTONES

WHAT ARE MILESTONES?

MILESTONES BY AGE

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SPEECH & LANGUAGE MILESTONES



Did you know? Babies and children grow and develop at different rates. While growing most babies and children gain identifiable skills as they grow. These identifiable skills are “developmental milestones”.

WHAT ARE SPEECH AND LANGUAGE MILESTONES?

Milestones build on each other, from simple to complex during predictable periods of time. Beginning at birth, speech and language milestones lay the foundation for a child’s listening, talking, and reading skills.

WHY ARE SPEECH & LANGUAGE MILESTONES IMPORTANT?

Milestones are important to track your baby’s growth and help you understand the skills your baby should have at their age.

As you identify your baby’s milestones, you will work with your LSL provider to grow your baby’s listening and talking skills.



SPEECH & LANGUAGE 0-3 MONTHS



MILESTONES

- Cries when hungry or needs comfort.
- Startles at loud sounds.
- Quiets or smiles when you talk to them.
- Seems to recognize voices.
- Whimpers, squeals, chuckles, gurgles at back of throat.
- Stops sucking to listen to a parent's voice.
- Looks to speaker's mouth or eyes.
- Vocalizes to objects.
- Vocalizes to parent's smile and makes happy sounds.
- Responds to and imitates facial expressions.
- Recognizes bottle or breast.

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Be sure your baby wears hearing technology during all waking hours.
- Attend regular LSL and audiology appointments.
- Use routines like play, bedtime, mealtime to talk with your baby.
- Share your baby's new skills with your LSL provider.
- Share questions and concerns with your LSL provider about your baby's growth.



SPEECH & LANGUAGE

3-6 MONTHS



MILESTONES

- Searches for sounds and voices
- Enjoys hearing own sounds (gurgling, laughing, babbling)
- Enjoys sounds of musical toys
- Responds to voices by babbling
- Coos to music
- Babbling begins, vocalizes "ma" or "mu"
- Plays with sounds- yells, bubbles, raspberries
- Smiles at speaker and laughs
- Vocalizes to objects
- Shows pleasure and displeasure by vocalizing
- Reaches for objects & explores with hands and mouth

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SPEECH & LANGUAGE

6-9 MONTHS



MILESTONES

- Babbles more often such as “ba ba ba ba.”
- Uses the sounds “m”, “n”, “b”, “p”, “t” and “d” in babbling.
- Uses sounds such as raspberries or pretends to cough.
- Begins to imitate speech sounds.
- Begins to recognize the names of family members.
- Responds to “no.”
- Looks at pictures.
- Uses arm movements and sounds to protest.

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SPEECH & LANGUAGE

9-12 MONTHS



MILESTONES

- Begin to mix syllables “ka-da-bu-ba-ba-mi.”
- Continues to imitate speech sounds.
- Uses one to five words by 12 months.
- Recognizes familiar people or toys or food when they hear the words.
- Looks at pictures with caregiver
- Attends to new words.
- Identifies 2 body parts on self.
- Gives objects when asked.
- Waves “bye-bye” or “hi.”
- Vocalizes with purpose often.



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SPEECH & LANGUAGE

12-18 MONTHS



MILESTONES

- Listens to simple songs, stories, and rhymes.
- Babbles short sentences only baby understands.
- Picks up toys or object when you ask.
- Copies other children.
- Uses real words with babbles.
- Points to body parts when you ask.
- Uses sounds with pointing or waving to ask for what they want.
- By 18 months, uses 20-100 real words.
- Points to pictures when you name the picture.
- Explores objects by shaking, banging, throwing, dropping.
- Uses objects correctly (drinking from cup, brushing hair).

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SPEECH & LANGUAGE

18-24 MONTHS



MILESTONES

- Remembers what is heard in the correct order (get the ball and the cup).
- Uses the sounds “m”, “p”, “b”, “w”, “n”, “t”, “d” at the beginning of short words.
- Caregivers can understand their words about half the time.
- Follows 2 directions together (“Get the ball and throw it to Mommy”).
- Puts 2 words together by 24 months.
- Understands questions “Where?” and “What’s that?”
- Uses around 200 words.
- Begins using pronouns like “me”, “mine”, “my”.
- Likes to take things apart and build/stack blocks.
- Pretends play about daily routines.

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SPEECH & LANGUAGE 24-36 MONTHS



MILESTONES

- Answers questions about a story.
- By 3 years most of speech is understandable.
- Answers questions with yes and no.
- Asks "What happened?".
- Uses 3 to 4 word sentences.
- Remembers what happened yesterday.
- Begins asking "what", "where" and "why" and questions ("What's that?", "Where baby?").
- Vocabulary 900+ words.
- Uses objects for pretend play (pretending a block is a car).
- Laughs at silly ideas.

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SPEECH & LANGUAGE

36-48 MONTHS



MILESTONES

- Listens and retells stories.
- By 4 years most of speech is understandable.
- Uses: “we”, “she”, “they”.
- Uses: “some”, “many”, “all”.
- Expresses ideas and feelings.
- Uses comparisons (“sister is a girl; brother is a ___”).
- Describes how to use objects such as “fork” or “hairbrush”.
- Enjoys poems and understands silly sentences such as “Is that an elephant on your head?”.
- Vocabulary 1500+ words
- Engages in imaginary play.
- Knows the differences between real and pretend words.
- Names emotions in books during read-alouds.

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