

Speech and Language Guidelines for Age

At age six months, your child ...
makes lots of different sounds
laughs, gurgles, coos with familiar people
reacts to loud, angry, and friendly voices
turns and looks at new sounds
babbling for attention.

At age eight months, your child...
responds to name and pats image of self in mirror
produces four or more different sounds
frequently uses syllables ba, da, ka
transfers objects from one hand to another
listens to own vocalizations and those of others
tries to imitate sounds

At age ten months, your child...
may say "mama" and "dada"
shouts to attract attention
uses jargon (babbling that sounds like real speech)
plays peek-a-boo
says a syllable or sequence of sounds repeatedly

At age twelve months, your child ...
recognizes name
says 2-3 words besides "mama" and "dada"
imitates familiar words
understands simple instructions
recognizes words as symbols for objects; car- point to garage, cat- meows

At age eighteen months, your child...
uses 10 -12 words, including names
recognizes pictures of familiar persons and objects
combines two words, such as "all gone", "Daddy bye-bye"
uses words to make wants known such as "more", "up"
points or gestures to call attention to an event or to show wants
points to his or her toes, eyes, and nose
brings familiar object from another room when asked
turns pages of a book a few at a time
follows simple commands
waves "bye-bye"
knows and says the names of 5 things

At age two, your child...
listens for the meaning of words, not just sound
understands simple questions and commands
identifies body parts

uses mainly names of things, actions, persons, and situations in his or her language
carries on a "conversation" with self and dolls
asks "what's this?", "what's that?", and "where's my?"
sentence length is composed of 2-3 words
refers to self by name
names pictures
uses 2-word negative phrases such as "not go", "not right", and "no want"
forms some plurals by adding "s"; book, books
has around 300 words in speech vocabulary
asks for drink, toilet, and food
listens to stories with pictures
stays with one activity 6-7 minutes

At age 2 1/2 , your child...

has a 450 word vocabulary
gives first name
uses past tense and plurals and combines noun and verbs
understands simple time concepts; "last night", "tomorrow"
refers to self as "me" rather than name
tries to get adult attention; "watch me"
likes to hear the same story repeated
uses "no" or "not" in speech and may say "no" when means "yes"
talks to other children as well as adults
answers "where" questions
can name common pictures and things he or she comes in contact with regularly
uses short sentences to announce what he or she has done or will do like, "Me do it", or " Me jump".
matches 3-4 colors
knows big and little
holds up finger to tell age

At age three, your child...

can match primary colors, names one color
knows night and day
understands "yesterday", "summer", "lunchtime", "tonight", "little-big"
begins to obey prepositional phrases like "put the block under the chair"
knows his or her last name, sex, name of street on which he/she lives and several nursery rhymes
can tell a story or relay an idea to someone
has sentence length of 3-4 words
has a vocabulary of 1000 words
can produce consistently "m, n, ng, p, f, h, and w"
may repeat sounds, words and phrases, which is perfectly normal at this age
can sing songs
asks "why" frequently
expresses fatigue verbally

At age four, your child...

- points to colors red, blue, yellow, and green
- identifies crosses, triangles, circles, and squares
- follows commands even though objects are not present
- understands "early in the morning", "next month", "next year", "noontime"
- can speak of imaginary conditions such as "suppose that" or "I hope"
- asks many questions although more interested in how answers fits his/her own thoughts rather than just the explanation
- has a sentence length of 4-5 words
- asks "who?" and "why?"
- begins to use complex sentences
- uses contractions such as "it's a" or "there's a"
- uses past tense correctly
- has a vocabulary of nearly 1500 words
- uses the following sounds correctly; m, n, ng, p, f, h, w, y, k, b, d, g, r

At age five, your child...

- defines objects by their use (You eat with a fork) and can tell what objects are made of
- knows spatial relations such as "on top", "behind", "far" and "near"
- knows his address
- has a sentence length of 5-6 words
- has a vocabulary of around 2000 words
- uses all speech sounds correctly with the possible exceptions of t, v, l, th, j, z, and zh (as in measure)
- knows common opposites like "big/little" and "hard/soft"
- understands "same" and "different"
- counts ten objects
- carries a plot in a story
- uses future, present, and past tense
- questions for information

At age six, your child...

- has correct articulation of speech sounds
- uses adult-like grammar in sentences and conversations
- understands the meanings of most sentences
- names days of week in order and counts to 30
- predicts the next sequence of events and tells a 4 to 5 part story
- tells month and day of birthday, name and address, left and right
- knows most opposites and the meaning of through, away, toward, and from
- knows the meaning of today, yesterday, and tomorrow
- asks lots of why, what, and how questions