

Domain and goal

- Achieves a receptive vocabulary of 150–300 words

Activities

It's hard to imagine your child has learned so many words. This week, review the 2500 word list and tick off any new words your child understands. It is difficult to know every word your child understands and your tendency will be to test your child. However, if you do this he will soon become bored and frustrated with you always asking him to show you or point to things. Instead of testing, think critically about what your child is understanding and become a good observer of your child. Also, any word your child uses spontaneously is a word he has in his receptive vocabulary, so ensure every word you give him credit for in his expressive list is also marked in his receptive list.

Your child should have from three to five times more words in his receptive vocabulary than in his expressive vocabulary. After you have done your vocabulary count, check your ratio. Check the number of words in his expressive vocabulary against the graph in the Appendix. Does he have the same number of words as a typically hearing child would have at his hearing age? In other words, your child's hearing age is most likely about 11 or 12 months. A typically hearing child of the same age would have an expressive vocabulary of between 7–15 words. Has your child equalled or surpassed his hearing age in terms of vocabulary development? By looking at the graph and plotting your child's total number of expressive words, you can determine the approximate language age of your child. Is he catching up to his chronological age? Has your child gained more than a year's growth in a year's time?

If you feel your child's receptive vocabulary is not as large as it should be, the best way to increase his vocabulary and language is by sharing more books with him every day. Go to the library at least once a week and get new books as well as some old favourites. Borrow books from relatives and friends. Ask for books for your child for his birthday and other holidays. In the words of Carol Flexer, "Read, read, read to your child, and then read some more."



Date	What did your child do?