

Hearing and language milestones



It is important to monitor your child's speech and language development as well as responses to sound. The following provides a general guide to hearing and language milestones.

3–4 years old

- ☐ Processes complex sentence structures
- ☐ Retells longer stories in detail – 5 or more sentences

2–3 years old

- ☐ Understands longer sentences
- ☐ Listens from a distance (in quiet)
- ☐ Follows directions that include 2-3 steps

18–24 months

- ☐ Listens to simple stories or songs
- ☐ Combines two or more words in short phrases, e.g., “more food”

12–18 months

- ☐ Appears to understand some new words each week
- ☐ Follows simple spoken instructions, e.g., “get the ball”
- ☐ Points to people, body parts or toys when asked
- ☐ Continually learns new words to say although may be unclear

9–12 months

- ☐ Imitates speech sounds of others
- ☐ Understands simple words, e.g., “ball,” “dog,” “daddy”
- ☐ Turns head to soft sounds
- ☐ First words emerge

6–9 months

- ☐ Babbles, e.g., “dada,” “mama,” “baba”
- ☐ Shouts/vocalizes to get attention
- ☐ Will often respond to “no” and own name
- ☐ Responds to singing and music

3–6 months

- ☐ Turns eyes or head toward sounds
- ☐ Starts to make speech-like sounds
- ☐ Laughs and makes noises to indicate pleasure and displeasure

Birth to 3 months

- ☐ Reacts to loud sounds
- ☐ Quiets to familiar voices or sounds
- ☐ Makes cooing noises
- ☐ Responds to speech by looking at speaker's face

If you are concerned about your child's hearing or speech and language development, please have their hearing tested.