

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE MILESTONES

AGE	HEARING/UNDERSTANDING	TALKING	SPEECH SOUNDS
0-3 MONTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Startles at loud sounds. <input type="checkbox"/> Quiets or smiles when you talk. <input type="checkbox"/> Seems to recognize your voice. Quiets if crying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Makes cooing sounds. <input type="checkbox"/> Cries change for different needs. <input type="checkbox"/> Smiles at people. 	
4-6 MONTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Moves her eyes in the direction of sounds. <input type="checkbox"/> Responds to changes in your tone of voice. <input type="checkbox"/> Notices toys that make sounds. <input type="checkbox"/> Pays attention to music. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Coos and babbles when playing alone or with you. <input type="checkbox"/> Makes speech-like babbling sounds, like <i>pa, ba, and mi</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Giggles and laughs. <input type="checkbox"/> Makes sounds when happy or upset. 	
7-12 MONTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Turns and looks in the direction of sounds. <input type="checkbox"/> Looks when you point. <input type="checkbox"/> Turns when you call her name. <input type="checkbox"/> Understands words for common items and people— words like <i>cup, truck, juice, and daddy</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Starts to respond to simple words and phrases, like “No,” “Come here,” and “Want more?” <input type="checkbox"/> Plays games with you, like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake. <input type="checkbox"/> Listens to songs and stories for a short time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Babbles long strings of sounds, like <i>mimi upup babababa</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses sounds and gestures to get and keep attention. <input type="checkbox"/> Points to objects & shows them to others <input type="checkbox"/> Uses gestures like waving bye, reaching for “up,” and shaking his head no. <input type="checkbox"/> Imitates different speech sounds. <input type="checkbox"/> Says 1 or 2 words, like <i>hi, dog, dada, mama, or uh-oh</i>. This will happen around his first birthday, but sounds may not be clear. 	
1-2 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Points to a few body parts <input type="checkbox"/> Follows simple 1-step directions <input type="checkbox"/> Responds to simple questions, like “Who’s that?” or “Where’s your shoe?” <input type="checkbox"/> Listens to simple stories, songs, rhymes <input type="checkbox"/> Points to named pictures in a book 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Uses a lot of new words. <input type="checkbox"/> Starts to name pictures in books. <input type="checkbox"/> Asks questions, like “What’s that?”, “Who’s that?”, and “Where’s kitty?” <input type="checkbox"/> Puts 2 words together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Uses <i>p, b, m, h, and w</i> in words. <input type="checkbox"/> May be less than 50% intelligible
2-3 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Understands opposites (<i>go— stop, big—little, up—down</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Follows 2-part directions, like “Get the spoon and put it on the table.” <input type="checkbox"/> Understands new words quickly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Has a word for almost everything. <input type="checkbox"/> Talks about things that are not in the room. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses words like <i>in, on, and under</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses two- or three- words to talk about and ask for things. <input type="checkbox"/> Asks “Why?” <input type="checkbox"/> Puts 3 words together. May repeat some words and sounds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Uses <i>k, g, f, t, d, and n</i> in words <input type="checkbox"/> Speech is understood at least 50% of the time by strangers
3-4 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Responds when you call from another room. <input type="checkbox"/> Understands some words for colors, shapes, and family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Answers simple <i>who, what, & where</i> questions. <input type="checkbox"/> Says rhyming words, like <i>hat—cat</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses pronouns, like <i>I, you, me, we, and they</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses some plural words, like <i>toys, birds, and buses</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Most people understand what your child says. <input type="checkbox"/> Asks <i>when and how</i> questions. <input type="checkbox"/> Puts 4 words together. May make some mistakes, like “I goed to school.” <input type="checkbox"/> Talks about what happened during the day. Uses about 4 sentences at a time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Speech is understood at least 75% of the time
4-5 YEARS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Understands words for order, like <i>first, next, and last</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Understands words for time, like <i>yesterday, today, and tomorrow</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Follows multi-step related directions and classroom directions <input type="checkbox"/> Hears and understands most of what she hears at home and in school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Responds to “What did you say?” <input type="checkbox"/> Talks without repeating sounds or words most of the time. <input type="checkbox"/> Names letters and numbers. <input type="checkbox"/> Uses sentences that have more than 1 action word, like <i>jump, play, and get</i>. May make some mistakes, like “Zach gots 2 video games, but I got one.” <input type="checkbox"/> Tells a short story. <input type="checkbox"/> Keeps a conversation going. <input type="checkbox"/> Talks in different ways, depending on the listener and place. Your child may use short sentences with younger children. He may talk louder outside than inside. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Says all speech sounds in words. May make mistakes on sounds that are harder to say, like <i>l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, and th</i>. <input type="checkbox"/> Speech is understood nearly 100% of the time

POTENTIAL SIGNS OF STUTTERING

- Having a lot of trouble saying sounds or words
- Repeating the first sounds of words, like "b-b-b-ball" for "ball"
- Pausing a lot while talking or broken words
- Stretching sounds out, like "fffffarm" for "farm"

POTENTIAL SIGNS OF VOICE DISORDERS

- Having a hoarse, scratchy, or breathy voice.
- Sounding nasal, or like he talks through his nose.
- Loses voice frequently
- Speaks with strain and extra effort

POTENTIAL SIGNS OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

- Say the wrong thing or act the wrong way when talking. May laugh at the wrong time or start talking about something else.
- Tell stories that do not make sense.
- inappropriate turn taking skills or topic maintenance
- Decreased/inappropriate use or understanding of nonverbal communication (e.g. eye contact, facial expressions, personal space, gestures, body language)
- Use language in limited ways. May not say hello, goodbye, or thank you. May yell or grab instead of asking for what she wants.
- Unable to change language for the listener or situation

Resources:

<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/01/>

<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/12/>

<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/23/>

<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/Social-Communication/>

<https://identifythesigns.org/signs-of-speech-and-language-disorders/>