

## How do I know my child is reaching the milestones?

Here is a checklist that you can follow to determine if your child's speech and language skills are developing on schedule. You should talk to your child's doctor about anything that is checked "no."

### Birth to 5 Months

Yes No

Reacts to loud sounds.

Turns head toward a sound source.

Watches your face when you speak.

Vocalizes pleasure and displeasure sounds (laughs, giggles, cries, or fusses).

Makes noise when talked to.

### 6 - 11 Months

Yes No

Understands "no-no."

Babbles (says "ba-ba-ba" or "ma-ma-ma").

Tries to communicate by actions or gestures.

Tries to repeat your sounds.

### 12 - 17 Months

Yes No

Attends to a book or toy for about two minutes.

Follows simple directions accompanied by gestures.

Answers simple questions nonverbally.

Points to objects, pictures, and family members.

Says two to three words to label a person or object (pronunciation may not be clear).

Tries to imitate simple words.

### 18 - 23 Months

Yes No

Enjoys being read to.

Follows simple commands without gestures.

Points to simple body parts such as "nose."

Understands simple verbs such as "eat," "sleep."

Correctly pronounces most vowels and n, m, p, h, especially in the beginning of syllables and short words. Also begins to use other speech sounds

Says 8 to 10 words (pronunciation may still be unclear).

Asks for common foods by name.

Makes animal sounds such as "moo."

Starting to combine words such as "more milk."

Begins to use pronouns such as "mine."

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### 2 - 3 Years

	Yes	No
Knows about 50 words at 24 months.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knows some spatial concepts such as "in," "on."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knows pronouns such as "you," "me," "her."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Knows descriptive words such as "big," "happy."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Says around 40 words at 24 months.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speech is becoming more accurate but may still leave off ending sounds.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strangers may not be able to understand much of what is said.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Answers simple questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Begins to use more pronouns such as "you," "I."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speaks in two to three word phrases.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses question inflection to ask for something (e.g., "My ball?").	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Begins to use plurals such as "shoes" or "socks" and regular past tense verbs such as "jumped."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 3 - 4 Years

	Yes	No
Groups objects such as foods, clothes, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Identifies colors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses most speech sounds but may distort some of the more difficult sounds such as l, r, s, sh, ch, y, v, z, th. These sounds may not be fully mastered until age 7 or 8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses consonants in the beginning, middle, and ends of words. Some of the more difficult consonants may be distorted, but attempts to say them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Strangers are able to understand much of what is said.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Able to describe the use of objects such as "fork," "car," etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has fun with language. Enjoys poems and recognizes language absurdities such as, "Is that an elephant on your head?"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expresses ideas and feelings rather than just talking about the world around him or her.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses verbs that end in "ing," such as "walking," "talking."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Answers simple questions such as "What do you do when you are hungry?"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repeats sentences.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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### 4 - 5 Years

	Yes	No
Understands spatial concepts such as "behind," "next to."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Understands complex questions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speech is understandable but makes mistakes pronouncing long, difficult, or complex words such as "hippopotamus."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Says about 200 - 300 different words.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses some irregular past tense verbs such as "ran," "fell."	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describes how to do things such as painting a picture.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Defines words.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lists items that belong in a category such as animals, vehicles, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Answers "why" questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 5 Years

	Yes	No
Understands more than 2,000 words.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Understands time sequences (what happened first, second, third, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carries out a series of three directions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Understands rhyming.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engages in conversation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sentences can be 8 or more words in length.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses compound and complex sentences.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describes objects.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses imagination to create stories.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>