



# Speech and Language Development

Patient and Family Education

This teaching sheet contains general information. Please talk with your child's doctor or pediatric audiologist to get more specific information. Call **813-262-1330** to make an appointment.

These are the stages of speech and language development for children. Each child is unique and speech may develop at different rates for each child. If you are concerned about your child's speech, consider having your child's speech and language skills evaluated.

Age	What your child understands	What your child says	Your child's speech sounds
Birth-3 months	Startles or cries at loud sounds; wakes up at loud sounds, makes eye contact when spoken to; stops crying when he/she hears your voice	Makes pleasure sounds; smiles when spoken to; uses different cries for pain, hunger, etc.	Coos with vowel sounds (ah, oo)
6 months	Turns toward sounds, responds to name; responds to "no"	Shows needs by sounds or gestures; yells, growls, squeals, and makes "raspberries"	Repeats syllables with different sounds (mama, bye bye) & babbles; makes sounds when alone
9 months	Responds to name; follows simple directions and gestures (give me the toy, put that down); understands names of some simple objects (cup, shoe, juice)	May wave bye-bye; shakes head "no"; plays "pat-a-cake" and "peek-a-boo"; makes sounds to get attention	"Speaks" in strings of different syllables (baba mama); imitates many different sounds
12 months	Follows simple, 1 part instructions (put block in cup); points to pictures in book when they are named	Uses a few words (mama, dada, bye bye); talks by using gibberish and jargon	Copies sounds (engine, dog) of things at home or outside
18 months	Understands names of many objects; follows 2 part instructions; can point to 1 to 4 body parts when they are named; understands about 250 words	Can say between 5 and 50 words; uses some 2 word phrases (want juice, all gone)	Begins to use consonants like p, b, m, w, and h at different times especially at the beginning of words
2 years	Points to simple pictures of objects and 5 body parts when named; follows more 2 part instructions; knows the names of most common pictures and objects	Can say 50 to 100 words; uses 2 word phrases; has a word for almost everything; combines nouns and verbs (mommy eat)	Parents and others understand speech about 50% of the time; uses consonants like p, b, m, n, w, and h
2 ½ years	Understands pictures of actions; knows objects by what they do (what do we use to comb our hair?); understands about 500 words	Can say about 50-250 words; uses 3 word phrases; learning some word endings like plural s, and -ing; uses is, the, and a; has some disfluencies (repeats, hesitates) are common	Uses p, b, m, n, h, w; mispronounces sounds; leaves off sounds in the middle and at the end of words
3 years	Understands 3 part instructions; understands who, what, where; understands some adjectives (big, little); understands longer sentences; understands about 800 words	Learns words quickly; can say 3 and 4 word sentences; can use pronouns, past tense verbs and questions; repeats often	Parents and others understand speech about 80% of the time; makes sounds like f, k, g, t, d, and ng
4 years	Follows 4 parts instructions; knows size and color adjectives; understands physical needs (what do you do when you're hungry?); understands about 1,200 to 2,000 words; knows 1-3 colors	Can say 800 to 1,500 words; uses 4 to 5 word sentences; can show feelings with words; answers many types of questions; counts 4 objects; counts 1 to 10; speech is more fluent; may repeat, stop, and use facial grimaces when talking	Parents and others understand speech 90% of the time; says most sounds except l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th

\*Children can say most sounds by 8 years of age\*