

# Speech Therapy Developmental Milestones

| Hearing and Understanding  | Talking  |
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| <p><b>0 - 3 MONTHS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Startles at loud sounds</li> <li>• Quiets or smiles when you talk</li> <li>• Seems to recognize your voice, quiets if crying</li> </ul> <p><b>4 - 6 MONTHS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moves his/her eyes in the direction of sounds</li> <li>• Responds to changes in your tone of voice</li> <li>• Notices toys that make sounds</li> <li>• Pays attention to music</li> </ul> <p><b>7 MONTHS - 1 YEAR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turns and looks in the direction of sound</li> <li>• Looks when you point</li> <li>• Turns when you call his/her name</li> <li>• Understands words for common items and people, like <i>cup, truck, juice, and daddy</i></li> <li>• Starts to respond to simple words and phrases, like “No,” “Come here,” and “Want more?”</li> <li>• Plays games with you, like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake</li> <li>• Listens to songs and stories for a short time</li> </ul> <p><b>1 - 2 YEARS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Points to a few body parts when you ask</li> </ul> | <p><b>0 - 3 MONTHS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes cooing sounds</li> <li>• Cries change for different needs</li> <li>• Smiles at people</li> </ul> <p><b>4 - 6 MONTHS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coos and babbles when playing alone or with you</li> <li>• Makes speech-like babbling sounds, like <i>pa, ba, and mi</i></li> <li>• Giggles and laughs</li> <li>• Makes sounds when happy or upset</li> </ul> <p><b>7 MONTHS - 1 YEAR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babbles long strings of sounds, like <i>mimi, upup babababa</i></li> <li>• Uses sounds and gestures to get and keep attention</li> <li>• Points to objects and shows them to others</li> <li>• Uses gestures like waving bye, reaching for “up,” and shaking his/her head “no”</li> <li>• Imitates different speech sounds</li> <li>• Says one or two words, like <i>hi, dog, dada, mama, or uh-oh</i>. This will happen around his/her first birthday, but sounds may not be clear.</li> </ul> <p><b>1 - 2 YEARS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses a lot of new words</li> <li>• Uses <i>p, b, m, h,</i> and <i>w</i> in words</li> </ul> |

## Hearing and Understanding

- Follows one-part directions, like “Roll the ball” or “Kiss the baby”
- Responds to simple questions, like “Who’s that?” or “Where’s your shoe?”
- Listens to simple stories, songs, and rhymes
- Points to pictures in a book when you name them

### 2 - 3 YEARS:

- Understands opposites, like *go/stop*, *big/little*, and *up/down*
- Follows two-part directions, like “Get the spoon and put it on the table.”
- Understands new words quickly

### 3 - 4 YEARS:

- Responds when you call from another room
- Understands words for some colors, like *red*, *blue*, and *green*.
- Understands words for some shapes, like *circle* and *square*
- Understands words for family, like *brother*, *grandmother*, and *aunt*

## Talking

- Starts to name pictures in books
- Asks questions, like “What’s that?”, “Who’s that?”, and “Where’s kitty?”
- Puts two words together, like “more apple,” “no bed,” and “mommy book.”

### 2 - 3 YEARS:

- Has a word for almost everything
- Talks about things that are not in the room
- Uses *k*, *g*, *f*, *t*, *d*, and *n* in words
- Uses words like *in*, *on*, and *under*
- Uses two or three words to talk about and ask for things
- People who know your child can understand him/her
- Asks “Why?”
- Puts three words together to talk about things. May repeat some words and sounds.

### 3 - 4 YEARS:

- Answers simple who, what, and where questions
- Says rhyming words, like *hat/cat*
- Uses pronouns, like *I*, *you*, *me*, *we*, and *they*
- Uses plural words, like *toys*, *birds*, and *buses*
- Most people understand what your child says
- Asks when and how questions
- Puts four words together. May make some mistakes, like “I goed to school.”
- Talks about what happened during the day. Uses about four sentences at a time.

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| <p>4 -5 YEARS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understands words for order, like <i>first</i>, <i>next</i>, and <i>last</i></li> <li>• Understands words for time, like <i>yesterday</i>, <i>today</i>, and <i>tomorrow</i></li> <li>• Follows longer directions, like “Put on your pajamas, brush your teeth, and then pick out a book.”</li> <li>• Follows classroom directions, like “Draw a circle on your paper around something you eat.”</li> <li>• Hears and understands most of what he/she hears at home and in school</li> </ul> | <p>4 -5 YEARS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Says all speech sounds in words. May make mistakes on sounds that are harder to say, like <i>l</i>, <i>s</i>, <i>r</i>, <i>v</i>, <i>z</i>, <i>ch</i>, <i>sh</i>, and <i>th</i></li> <li>• Responds to “What did you say?”</li> <li>• Talks without repeating sounds or words most of the time</li> <li>• Names letters and numbers</li> <li>• Uses sentences that have more than one action word, like <i>jump</i>, <i>play</i>, and <i>get</i>. May make some mistakes, like “Zach gots two video games, but I got one.”</li> <li>• Tells a short story</li> <li>• Keeps a conversation going</li> <li>• Talks in different ways, depending on the listener and place. Your child may use short sentences with younger children or talk louder outside than inside.</li> </ul> |

Info from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (<https://www.asha.org/>)