



Language Developmental Milestones

Language development can be categorized by age into developmental milestones and should be assessed for each individual child.

Infant Developmental Milestones

Infants communicate needs and wants through nonverbal gestures and facial expressions. They respond to environmental sounds and to talking, singing, and reading.

Age	Language Developmental Milestones
0-3 Months	Makes cooing sounds such as “ooo,” “gah,” and “aah?” Imitates sounds Laughs
4-7 months	Makes sounds when looking at toys or people. Makes sounds like, “da” “ga” “ka” and “ba” Makes high pitched squeals. Babbles
8-12 months	Responds and imitates sounds Makes two similar sounds like, “ba-ba” “da-da” or “ga-ga” Says words such as “mama,” “dada” and “baba”



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Toddler Developmental Milestones

Toddlers demonstrate their understanding of simple words through their actions. They are experimenting with nonverbal vocal sounds and are beginning to use one or two word phrases.

Age	Language Developmental Milestones
12-24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Can say 15 wordsCorrectly uses the words “me” “I” “mine” and “you”Says two words sentences such as, “see dog” or “all gone”Listens to simple storiesResponds to adult questions
24-36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Repeats back two word sentences such as, “what’s this” or “daddy play”Says first and last nameMakes three or four word sentencesCommunicates through nonverbal gesturesListens and imitates sounds in songs or nursery rhymesUses three to four word phrases



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Preschool Developmental Milestones

Preschoolers demonstrate an understanding of vocabulary through their everyday conversations. They can describe experiences in detail and can speak clearly enough to be understood.

Age	Language Developmental Milestones
36-48 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Listens and follows multi-step directions with supportResponds to complex questions with appropriate answersSpeaks clearly enough to be understoodUses expanded sentence structureRetells personal events and experiences
48-60 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Uses past tense wordsUses comparison words such as heavier, stronger or shorterExtends/expands thoughts or ideas expressedConnects new vocabulary from activities, stories, and books with prior experiences and conversationsDescribes activities events and stories with detail