

Communication and Language Development

Language development is in two stages and covers two areas:

1. Pre-Linguistic Stage (from birth until baby's first intentional word)
2. Linguistic Stage (begins with child's first intentional word)
3. Area of expressive language (child's ability to be able to express themselves using the language of their social group).
4. Area of receptive language (ability to listen and understand)

Multilingual Homes: Many children will hear more than one language. Your children might be learning at least two. Children who are exposed to languages make connections in the brain that a child speaking one language is not able to make, helping working memory and child's ability in later life to problem solve.

Language Milestones

Birth to 4 Months

- ☐ Able to communicate using sounds, body movements and facial expressions
- ☐ Cooing (vowel sounds, for example, 'aah' or 'ooh')
- ☐ Able to wait their turn in back-and-forth interactions with adult
- ☐ Social smile

4 - 8 Months

- ☐ Begins to laugh!
- ☐ Babbling begins to develop (consonant and vowel sounds, for example, 'gah' or 'du')
- ☐ Understand that their cries and sounds get a response from adult!
- ☐ Looks up when they hear their name
- ☐ Understands words for familiar objects or people
- ☐ Able to follow an adult's gaze (look at the same thing as the adult)

8 - 12 Months

- ☐ Joint attention is mastered! (Child can engage with looking at an object with an adult)
- ☐ Able to communicate with intention, for example, pointing at an object they want, nodding to say yes, waving to say good-bye.
- ☐ String together a variety of babbles together to sound like words
- ☐ Understands simple requests, for example, 'Can Mummy have a cracker?'

1 - 2 Years

- ☐ First word is spoken
- ☐ Can point to familiar objects when asked
- ☐ Says 'No' with meaning

- ☐ Repeats the last word in our sentence, for example, if we say, 'Get me your shoes', the child will say 'shoes'
- ☐ Uses own name when asked, 'Who ate the banana?'
- ☐ Imitates sounds in the environment, for example, 'Woof woof, beep beep.'
- ☐ Uses 2- or 3-word sentences
- ☐ Can name 3 common objects in books
- ☐ Understands when you are speaking about different rooms in a home, for example, 'Your shoes are in your bedroom.'
- ☐ Can identify more than 6 body parts
- ☐ Understands two-part sentences such as, 'First we will put your shoes on and then we will go to the park.'
- ☐ Can follow a direction that includes 2 separate and distinct requests
- ☐ Answers a simple question with more than a yes or no!
- ☐ Uses 50+ words

2 - 3 Years

- ☐ Uses two to three sentences at a time when speaking
- ☐ Names eight common items in books
- ☐ Recites nursery rhymes and familiar songs
- ☐ Understands all common verbs (such as "jump"), most common adjectives (such as "big"), and some prepositions (such as "in")
- ☐ Child regularly engages in conversations, using short sentences to share their experiences
- ☐ Asks "what," "where," and "when" questions
- ☐ Can understand "how" and "when" questions
- ☐ Uses 300–1,000 words.

3 – 5 Years

- ☐ Understanding of opposites?
- ☐ Understanding of time concepts such as 'before' and 'after' or 'yesterday' and 'today'.
- ☐ Can identify primary colours and shapes
- ☐ Able to respond to 'What happens if . . .' questions.
- ☐ Asks 'when', 'why', and 'how' questions
- ☐ Uses regular past tense, such as adding '-ed to make 'fix', 'fixed', and
- ☐ Uses irregular past-tense verbs correctly, such as 'fell' or 'broke.].
- ☐ Describes how to do something, such as play a simple game
- ☐ Can give a description of a past experience in sequence
- ☐ Able to produce simple rhyming words
- ☐ Can ask questions about how another person feels
- ☐ Answers questions about a story
- ☐ Able to produce longer, more complex, and grammatically correct sentences
- ☐ Uses relational words such as 'first,' 'then,' and 'next.'
- ☐ Understands approximately 13,000 words