

Speech & Language Development ~ Birth – 5 years

Age	Hearing and Understanding	Talking
Birth-3 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Startles to loud sounds • Quiets or smiles when spoken to • Seems to recognize your voice and quiets if crying • Increases or decreases sucking behavior in response to sound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes pleasure sounds (cooing, gooing) • Cries differently for different needs • Smiles when sees you
4-6 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moves eyes in direction of sounds • Responds to changes in tone of your voice • Notices toys that make sounds • Pays attention to music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including <i>p</i>, <i>b</i> and <i>m</i> • Chuckles and laughs • Vocalizes excitement and displeasure • Makes gurgling sounds when left alone and when playing with you
7 Months-1 Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoys games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake • Turns and looks in direction of sounds • Listens when spoken to • Recognizes words for common items like "cup", "shoe", "book", or "juice" • Begins to respond to requests (e.g. "Come here" or "Want more?") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babbling has both long and short groups of sounds such as "tata upup bibibibi" • Uses speech or noncrying sounds to get and keep attention • Uses gestures to communication (waving, holding arms to be picked up) • Imitates different speech sounds • Has one or two words (hi, dog,dada, mama) around first birthday, although sounds may not be clear

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1-2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Points to a few body parts when asked. • Follows simple commands and understands simple questions ("Roll the ball," "Kiss the baby," "Where's your shoe?"). • Listens to simple stories, songs, and rhymes. • Points to pictures in a book when named. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Says more words every month. • Uses some one- or two- word questions ("Where kitty?" "Go bye-bye?" "What's that?"). • Puts two words together ("more cookie," "no juice," "mommy book"). • Uses many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words.
2-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands differences in meaning ("go-stop," "in-on," "big-little," "up-down"). • Follows two requests ("Get the book and put it on the table"). • Listens to and enjoys hearing stories for longer periods of time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a word for almost everything. • Uses two- or three- words to talk about and ask for things. • Uses k, g, f, t, d, and n sounds. • Speech is understood by familiar listeners most of the time. • Often asks for or directs attention to objects by naming them.
3-4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hears you when you call from another room. • Hears television or radio at the same loudness level as other family members. • Answers simple "who?", "what?", "where?", and "why?" questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talks about activities at school or at friends' homes. • People outside of the family usually understand child's speech. • Uses a lot of sentences that have 4 or more words. • Usually talks easily without repeating syllables or words.
4-5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays attention to a short story and answers simple questions about them. • Hears and understands most of what is said at home and in school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses sentences that give lots of details ("The biggest peach is mine"). • Tells stories that stick to topic. • Communicates easily with other children and adults. • Says most sounds correctly except a few like l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th. • Says rhyming words. • Names some letters and numbers. • Uses the same grammar as the rest of the family.