

Speech and Language Development



Milestones from birth to five years

Each child is unique; therefore, they do not grow and develop at exactly the same pace. However, children develop in predictable ways. Below are some indicators that a child is developing typically. If you are concerned about your child's growth, development or learning, contact us at megan@novaspeechandlanguage.com or call 571-766-6834.

<h2>3 months</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows movements by turning head • Lifts head and chest when lying on stomach • Startles at loud noises • Cries, smiles, coos • Recognizes your voice
<h2>6 months</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses hands and mouth to explore • Make gurgling sounds when playing with you or left alone • Babbles and make a variety of sounds • Use his or her voice to express pleasure and displeasure • Move his or her eyes in the direction of sounds • Respond to changes in the tone of your voice
<h2>12 months</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts to imitate sounds and simple words • Says a few words such as "mama" • Understands simple directions • Recognizes words for common items
<h2>2 years</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Points to things or pictures in a book when named • Combines two words such as "want ball"

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a vocabulary of around 200 words • Speech may be hard to understand, but caregiver can understand at least 50% of speech • Demonstrates parallel play (plays beside others) <p>*We recommend a referral if your child isn't using two-word phrases or isn't verbally communicating wants and needs.</p>
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3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses three-word sentences • Follows 2-step directions • An unfamiliar listener can understand at least 75% of speech • Answers simple questions • Begins to use plurals • Shows concern and affection for others • Uses imaginary play • Uses joint play with peers (playing with them rather than beside them)
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4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tells stories and retells stories • Understands concepts such as "behind, same, next to" • Lists items in a category • Describes how to do something • Understands complex questions • Plays cooperatively with peers
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5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaks in sentences of six or more words • Unfamiliar listener can understand almost 100% of speech • Wants to engage in conversations with peers • Understands time sequences (first, second, third) • Understands rhyming • Follows three-step directions
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If you feel like your child is not meeting these milestones or if you have any questions about your child's speech or language skills contact us at megan@novaspeechandlanguage.com or 571-766-6834.