

Speech & Language Development Milestones



	1 YEAR	2 YEARS	3 YEARS	4 YEARS	5 YEARS	6-12 YEARS	12+ YEARS
L A N G U A G E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses 10 words • Looks for unseen objects • Recognizes name • Gestures needs/wants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of pronouns • Parents understand more • Telegraphic sentences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ "Mom up" • 2-word sentences • Uses 250 words • Asks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ "What's this?" ✓ "Where's my...?" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-word sentences • Uses 900 words, but understands 4x that • Strangers can understand • Recognizes/points to common objects in pictures when asked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-word sentences • Can tell stories • Uses prepositions • Uses plurals • Compound sentences (4-6 words) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asks the meaning of words • Uses present, future/past tenses • Asks questions for information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shift from ego-centric to social speech • Incomplete sentences decline • Vocabulary expands geometrically (50,000 words by age 12) • Identifies right/left 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopts personal speech patterns • Communication becomes focus of relationships
S P E E C H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babbling • Blowing raspberries • Popping lips 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilabials p, b, m emerging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correctly produces the following sounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ h, w, m, n ✓ b, p, f • k, g sounds emerging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correctly produces the following sounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ng', y (as in yes) ✓ k, d, g, t 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses all speech sounds correctly with the possible exceptions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ v, l, th, ch, j ✗ s, z, zh (as in measure) and r 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By 6, has correct articulation of most speech sounds. • May still have difficulties with clusters such as 'spl' or 'tr' • By 8-9, matches the adult standard for the production of all consonant sounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses adult-like grammar in sentences and conversations
S O C I A L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separation anxiety • Dependence on parental figure • Onlooker/parallel play • Perceives others emotions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selfish and self-centered • Imitates mannerisms and activities • May be aggressive • "No" is favourite word • Prepares food for doll/bear, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Feeds ✓ Puts to sleep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group play • Fixed gender identity • Sex-specific play • Understands "taking turns" • Knows own gender and full name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imitation of adult roles • Curiosity about body (playing doctor) • Nightmares and monster fears • Imaginary friends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conformity to peers important 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Rules of the game" are key • Organized sport possible • Being team member focal for many • Separation of the sexes • Sexual feelings not apparent • Demonstrating competence is key 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identity is key issue • Conformity most important • Organized sports diminish for many • Cross-gender relationships

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COGNITIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responds with searching movements when object disappears or is moved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explores many objects Can use symbols Transition objects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Blanket ✓ teddy bear Strong egocentrism Concrete use of objects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeats 3 digits Points to/ counts 3 objects Names colours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repeats 4 digits Identifies body parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counts 10 objects correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstract from objects Adherence to logic Able to sequence events No hypotheticals (no "ifs") Personal sense of right and wrong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systematic problem solving strategies Can handle hypotheticals Deals with past, present, future
PHYSICAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pats pictures in book Stacks 3-4 cubes (18mo) Walks (13mo) Ascends stairs (child manner) Emergence of hand preference (18 mo) Kicks ball, throws ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies a line (scribbles with crayons) Stacks 6 cubes Walks backwards Descends stairs (child manner) Runs Can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Turn door knob ✓ Unscrew jar lid High activity level Able to aim thrown ball 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies a circle Unbutton buttons (undress) Stacks 9 cubes Rides tricycle Ascends stairs (adult manner) Cuts paper with scissors Bowel/bladder control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Toilet training Catches ball with arms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies some shapes Grooms self: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Brushes teeth Hops on one foot Descend stairs (adult manner) Throws overhand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially dresses self Complete sphincter control Catches ball with 2 hands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prints letters Ties shoes Draws recognizable man with head, body and limbs Boys heavier than girls Permanent teeth (11y) Skips with alternating feet Rides bicycle Refined motor skills Gains athletic skill Coordination increases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adolescent growth spurt (girls before boys) Onset of sexual maturity (10+y) Development of primary and secondary sexual characteristics