



Speech & Language Milestones

SPEECH

- Around 2 years, child begins to use different combinations of vowels & consonants
- Speech is mostly understood by familiar people
- Many words contain only a consonant and a vowel (e.g., "do" for "dog")

LANGUAGE

- Combines 2-word phrases (e.g., "more juice")
- Uses more than 50 words, understands more than 300 words
- Follows 1-step directions (e.g., "get the ball")
- Answers yes/no questions
- Often uses gestures (e.g., pointing, reaching)

1-2
Years

SPEECH

By age 3-3.5

- 75% understandable to unfamiliar listeners
- Should produce: m, n, h, w, p, t, k, b, d, g, f, y

By age 4-4.5

- 100% understandable to unfamiliar listeners
- Should produce: v, j

By age 5-5.5

- Should produce: s, sh, th

*Common sound errors that may continue to present at age 6:
r, l, z, th, ch

3-5
Years

SPEECH

Sounds: p, b, m, n, w, h, t, d, k, g, ng, y are typically mastered
Speech should be 50-75% understood by an unfamiliar listener

LANGUAGE

- Combines 3-word phrases (e.g., "I want juice")
- Starts to understand differences between opposites (e.g., big/little, go/stop, up/down)
- Begins to follow simple 2-step directions (e.g., "get your shoes and give them to Dad")
- Begins to name objects when requesting
- Answers simple "wh"- questions (e.g., "what is this?")

2-3
Years

LANGUAGE

- Follows 3-step directions
- Begins to use 4 or more words in a sentence
- Answers more complicated "wh"-questions
- Uses more correct grammar
- Starts to recognize letters & numbers



Who Can Help?

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) can help! SLPs are all Master's-level educated individuals working to help children improve communication. An SLP can work with your child in the areas of receptive, expressive, and pragmatic language, articulation, phonology, fluency, voice, feeding and swallowing.

ASK YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER FOR MORE INFORMATION TODAY!



- ▶ By age 1, child cannot:
 - Respond to their name
 - Begin verbalizing first words
 - No eye contact

- ▶ By age 2, child cannot:
 - Begin combining 2-word phrases
 - Child does not consistently add new words to expressive vocabulary
 - Child does not follow simple instructions
 - Child presents with limited play skills

- ▶ By ages 3-5, child cannot:
 - Verbalize utterances without repeating parts of words or prolonging sounds (e.g., "m-m-m-my mother")
 - Seem to find the right words, describe an item or event without difficulty
 - Begin combining four to five-word sentences
 - Be understood by both familiar and unfamiliar listeners
 - Repeat themselves to clarify without frustration
 - Correctly produce vowels and majority of speech sounds (closer to 5 years old)
 - Does not ask or answer simple questions
 - Child uses rote phrases and sentences
 - Child prefers to play alone than with peers

Red
Flags