

Your child develops language in different stages. Use this chart to find out how your child is progressing.

SPEECH, LANGUAGE & HEARING MILESTONES

for children

BIRTH TO 3 MONTHS

Makes cooing sounds & different cries
Startles to loud noises
Calms to a familiar voice

7 TO 12 MONTHS

Responds to his/her name
Communicates needs by using sounds & actions (e.g. pointing)
Begins to follow simple directions

18 TO 24 MONTHS

Understands more words than he/she can say
Says two words together (e.g. "More juice" "Mommy book")
Asks simple questions (e.g. "What's that?" "Where kitty?")

3 TO 4 YEARS

Can tell a short story or talk about what has happened during the day
Talks in sentences with adult-like grammar
Answers a variety of "who?" "what?" and "where?" questions

4 TO 6 MONTHS

Begins to babble & try new sounds
Enjoys repetitive games (e.g. peek a boo)
Turns to sounds and/or music

12 TO 18 MONTHS

Begins to use common & meaningful words (e.g. "Dada", "go")
Points to body parts or pictures in books
Looks to your face when talking and listening to you

2 TO 3 YEARS

Able to use three or more words in a sentence
Follows two-part directions (e.g. "Get your shoes and come downstairs.")
Answers simple questions (e.g. "Where is the car?")

4 TO 5 YEARS

Pronounces most speech sounds correctly
Participates in and understands conversations at home and at school
Can retell a story & ask and answer questions about a story



Speech and Hearing BC



Communicating is connecting

For further information about child language development, or tools and tips to help your child progress, visit speechandhearingbc.ca.