

# LANGUAGE MILESTONES

It is important to monitor your child’s language development milestones right from birth. The following provides a general guideline for behaviours your child should be demonstrating by a specific age for healthy language development.

1 year old	Understanding Language		Using Language	
	Understands around 50-300 words at 18 mths	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses <b>at least</b> 20 words by 18 months	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Follows one-step directions (e.g., get the book, kiss the baby, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses one-word phrases to communicate and moves into using two-word phrases by the end of the first year	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Identifies some simple body parts (e.g., nose, eyes, head, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Makes eye contact during communication	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Shows interest in simple picture books	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses raising intonation to ask yes/no questions (e.g., “More?”)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Understands basic yes/no questions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Says more words every month and tries to imitate new words	<input type="checkbox"/>
	By 18 months understands simple ‘wh’ questions, such as what, where and who	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engages in approximately 5 communicative acts/min during free play with an adult	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Identifies common or familiar objects in books when asked	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vocabulary includes nouns, verbs, social words, rejection words and words that are part of communicative games	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Understands words for objects out of sight	<input type="checkbox"/>	Directs an adult’s attention to look at something (e.g., point to an airplane in the sky)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engages in cause and effect play with toys and simple symbolic play emerges	<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiates turn taking games with an adult (e.g., rolling a ball)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

This chart is meant for informative purposes only and is not a substitute for a speech and language assessment. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child’s speech and language development it is recommended you discuss this with your doctor or contact a local speech-language pathologist where you are living.