

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.

2 years old	Understanding Language	Using Language		
	Understands approximately 200-400 words at 24mths	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has a spoken vocabulary of approximately 200 - 750 words by 2.5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Listens to stories for longer periods of time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Combines two words together and starts to make small sentences by 2.5 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Understands simple concepts (e.g., go/stop, on/off, big/little, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses a few pronouns (e.g., mine, me, you, she/he, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Engages in parallel play with other children	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses the plural and possessive “s” (e.g., dogs and mommy’s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Understands basic prepositions (e.g., in, on, out, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speech is understood by familiar people most of the time	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Holds books the right way and turns pages in books	<input type="checkbox"/>	May begin to stutter on the beginning sounds in words but causes no frustration or embarrassment	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Follows two-step directions (e.g., get the cup and put it on the table)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asks yes/no and simple ‘wh’ questions (e.g., who, what, where)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Has vocabulary for basic emotions (e.g. happy, sad, angry)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has an average of 7.5 communicative acts/min during free play with an adult	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Sequences activities in play (e.g., feed the doll, wipe her mouth, put her to bed)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Talks about objects that are out of view	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to engage in basic conversation with an adult emerges	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grammatical markers for verbs emerge such as present tense -ing and regular past tense -ed	<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.