

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.

3 years old	Understanding Language		Using Language	
	Understands words for some colours and shapes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has a vocabulary of about 2000 – 4000 words	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Understands a variety of concept words (e.g., slow/fast, hot/cold, wet/dry, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Combines words into sentences to communicate	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Understands more complex preposition terms (e.g., in front of, around, behind)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses more adult-like verb tenses more frequently (e.g., jumping , jumped , jumps , etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Remembers and understands familiar stories from books	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can use language to report events, make predictions, express emotions and use in imaginative play	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Follows directions involving several steps (e.g., “go upstairs, get your book and give it to your brother”)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speech is understood by strangers approximately 75% of the time	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Can engage in conversation by adding new information to the topic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asks why questions	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Dramatization emerges in play	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can tell a story with a theme but no real plot	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Can recognize rhyming words	<input type="checkbox"/>	Articles appear in speech such as ‘a’ and ‘the’	<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.