

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.

6 to 9 months	Understanding Language		Using Language	
	Enjoys games such as peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake	<input type="checkbox"/>	Makes a variety of babbling noises (e.g., bababa, mamama, wiwiwi, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Listens when spoken to	<input type="checkbox"/>	Imitates simple actions with objects (e.g., bang a drum, shake a rattle, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Recognizes familiar words (e.g., book, cup, mommy, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses vocalizations (crying and non-crying) to get an adult’s attention	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Responds to “no” most of the time	<input type="checkbox"/>	Attempts to imitate simple actions of an adult (e.g., wave, clap, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Responds to own name	<input type="checkbox"/>		

9 to 12 months	Understanding Language		Using Language	
	Understands between 3 – 50 words	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses gestures to communicate (e.g., points to desired items, waves, lifts arms to be picked up, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Enjoys songs and rhymes	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	Responds by looking at what an adult points to	<input type="checkbox"/>	Imitates different speech sounds	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Responds to simple requests (e.g., come here, give me the..., etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uses a variety of consonant sounds in jargon, babbling or words (e.g., b, p, d, t, m, n, w, y, h)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vocalizes during play alone or with another person			<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.