

SEQUENCE OF EARLY GRAMMATICAL DEVELOPMENT



Children start to use basic grammar in their second year of life with specific grammatical markers expected to be used at certain ages. As they grow older their grammar should become more sophisticated and adult like.

GRAMMATICAL MARKER	AGE (in months)	EXAMPLE
Present progressive – <i>ing</i>	19-28	“Daddy waving”
Preposition “ <i>in</i> ”	27 - 30	“Ball <i>in</i> cup”
Preposition “ <i>on</i> ”	27 - 33	“Hat <i>on</i> table”
Regular plural – <i>s</i>	27 - 33	“I see cats”
Irregular Past Tense	25 - 46	“Teddy <i>fell</i> ”
Possessive – ‘ <i>s</i> ”	26 - 40	“I want mommy’s drink”
Copula “ <i>is</i> ”	28 - 46	“He <i>is</i> sick”
Articles	28 - 46	“I want <i>a</i> cookie” or “I see <i>the</i> cookie”
Regular Past Tense – <i>ed</i>	26 - 48	“We walked to school”
Third Person Regular – <i>s</i>	28 - 50	“Tommy flies the kite”
Irregular Third Person	28 - 50	“He <i>does</i> ”
Auxiliary verb	29 - 48	“We <i>are</i> having fun”
Contractible copula	29 - 49	“That man’s big”
Contractible auxiliary verb	30 - 50	“Molly’s eating dinner”

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