

Communication & Language Milestones

Tracking milestones is a great way to check in on your child's development. Here are some things to look for as your young children learn, explore, and develop ways to communicate and interact with the world around them. But remember, every child develops differently and may meet their communication and language milestones at different times.

Birth to 6 Months

- Smiles when interacting with a parent or caregiver
- Coos and makes eye contact

3 to 6 Months

- Giggles and laughs
- Responds with different sounds, using different sounds for different meanings

1 to 2 Years

- Follows simple commands and understands simple questions
- Has a word for almost everything and begins to use past tense and plurals

9 to 12 Months

- Enjoys songs and rhythms
- Understands 30-50 words and says some words like mama and dada

6 to 9 Months

- Shows interest in books by looking, touching and handling, and mouthing
- Imitates simple actions like banging a drum, waving, clapping

2 to 3 Years

- Speaks in a way that is understood by family and friends
- Understands spatial concepts like over and under, and uses words like me and mine

3 to 4 Years

- Expresses ideas and feelings rather than just talking about the world around them
- Sings songs and rhymes from memory and acts out stories

4 to 5 Years

- Communicates clearly enough to be understood by strangers and can carry on a conversation
- Uses words ending in "ing" and understands words for time, like tomorrow and yesterday



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