



System Offering Actions for Resilience In Early Childhood



DEVELOPMENT: SPEECH & LANGUAGE



Each child develops at their own rate and can reach milestones at different ages. Below are some guidelines for when speech- and language-related milestones should occur.

BIRTH TO 5 MONTHS

- Coos
- Makes “happy” and “sad” noises
- Makes noise when talked to

6 TO 11 MONTHS

- Understands “no-no”
- Babbles
- 2-syllable words with no meaning (“ba-ba”)
- Tries to communicate by actions or gestures
- Tries to repeat your sounds
- Says first word

12 TO 17 MONTHS

- Answer simple questions nonverbally
- Can hear and understand but are working on communicating and speaking
- Says 2-3 words to label a person or object
- Tries to imitate simple words
- Vocabulary of 4-6 words

18 TO 23 MONTHS

- Asks for common foods by name
- Makes animal sounds
- Starts to combine words into 2-word sentences
- Begins to use pronouns (“mine”)

2 TO 3 YEARS

- Knows preposition phrases (“in” and “on”)
- Knows pronouns
- Knows descriptive words (“big” or “happy”)
- Three-word sentences
- Answers simple questions
- Uses a question inflection when asking
- Begins to use plurals and past tense

3 TO 4 YEARS

- Groups objects
- Identifies colors
- Uses most speech sounds but may struggle with more difficult ones
- Able to describe the use of objects
- Enjoys poems and can recognize language absurdities (“Did you see that elephant fly?”)
- Expresses ideas and feelings

4 TO 5 YEARS

- Understands “behind” and “next to”
- Understands complex questions
- Has difficulty with longer, complex words
- Uses some irregular past tense verbs (“ran”)
- Describes how to do things
- Lists items in a category
- Answers “why” questions

5 YEARS

- Understands time sequences
- Carries out a series of 3 directions
- Understands rhyming
- Engages in conversation
- Sentences 8 words or longer
- Uses compound and complex sentences
- Describes objects
- Uses imagination to create stories