



## Language Milestones for Children

Babies are born with no ability to communicate. As they grow, children must learn to develop their language skills in order to survive in the world around them. Below is a list of the major language milestones that children experience in order to become effective communicators. If for any reason, you have a concern about your child's language development, contact a Speech Language Pathologist to discuss your concerns. \*Please remember children develop at different rates and all ages listed below are an estimation of when a child should acquire those language skills.

Age Range	Language Milestones for Children
Birth – 3 months	Cooing and babbling. Infant responds to speech sounds and starts to interact with people.
4-6 months	Babbling a string of syllables (“baba”) and imitation of sounds.
7-9 months	Baby begins to comprehend some words. Imitation of speech sounds begins. Waves to people and points to objects.
10 months – 2 years	Shows an understanding of “no”, respond to own name, produces some single words. Follows simple directions
2 -2.5 years	Responds to some yes/no questions, names everyday objects. Uses phrases and incomplete sentences to communicate.
3-3.5 years	Production of multiword sentences. Able to understand and respond to a variety of questions. Child begins to show an interest in reading and writing.
3.5 – 5 years	Able to produce grammatically correct sentences and adult-like language to communicate and be understood by unfamiliar adults. Some errors are still present in sentence structure; however, it does not affect a person’s comprehension of the message that the child is trying to share.

Adapted from Assessment in Speech-Language Pathology: A Resource Manual 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (p.247), by Kenneth G. Shipley, Julie G. McAfee, 2009, Clifton Park, NY