

SPEECH & LANGUAGE MILESTONES

2 TO 4 MONTHS



- Turns toward sounds
- Coos and makes playful sounds

4 TO 8 MONTHS



- Plays peekaboo
- Visually tracks moving toys
- Looks attentively at objects
- Begins babbling

8 TO 12 MONTHS



- Associates words with familiar objects
- Responds to simple phrases
- Begins approximating first words
- Uses speech-like jargon

1 TO 2 YEARS



- Pays more attention to toys
- Follows simple commands with gestures
- Points to simple pictures
- Understands simple questions
- Uses 50–200 words by 24 months

2 TO 3 YEARS



- Follows two-step commands with prepositions
- Understands “what,” “who,” and “where” questions
- Uses about 150 words at age 2
- Uses 300–400 words at age 3
- Uses and understands “no,” “not,” “can’t,” and “don’t”

3 TO 4 YEARS



- Understands about 1,500 words
- Recognizes he/she, plurals, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, and basic colors
- Answers “what,” “where,” and “when” questions

4 TO 5 YEARS



- Understands about 1,500–2,000 words
- Understands “if,” “because,” “why,” and “when”
- Follows complex directions
- Speech is fully understandable
- Errors with /s/, /r/, /l/, and /th/ may persist