

NORMAL DEVELOPMENT OF SPEECH, LANGUAGE & COMMUNICATION

AGE	RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE	EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE		CONVERSATION & INTERACTION SKILLS
		SPEECH / SOUNDS	GESTURES	
0-3 months	Watches speaker's eyes/mouth, Discriminate between consonant sounds	Nasal monotonous cry "mmm" "nn", "aa" sounds sucking sounds	Body movements Uses gaze or body to initiate/ maintain/terminate /avoid interaction	Quiets to voice Joint attention to with caregiver to objects/ events - face regard and eye contact, Vocalizes when talked to Social smile
3-6 months	Looks to own name	Cries rhythmically Coos plays with sounds consonant chains "baba-baba" (3 syllable)	Continues activity by initiating movements involved	Takes turn - vocalizes in response Demands Social attention Enjoys social play
6-9 months	Looks for family members when named, Listens to familiar words	Babbles when communicating	Waves or responds to bye-bye Lifts arm to parent Imitates familiar gestures	Cooperates in games like peek – a – boo etc. Imitation Turn-taking
9-12 months	Responds to simple requests Understands what "no" means	Babbles with speech like inflection	Extends toy to show object, not to release Imitates new gestures	Request for object/action
12-20 months	Understands most noun objects. Recognizes and points to some pictures	Says "dada" or "mama" to label caregiver, Name familiar objects etc. - vocabulary of about 20 words Says "no" meaningfully Single word sentences Uses name to refer to self	Understands and uses pointing Gestures to Indicate needs	Gestures for clarification, to comment, request, respond Language Functions: Confirmation/denial
20-24 months	Understands personal pronouns, action verbs and adjectives Obeys 2 part related commands ex: take your napkin and wipe your face	Tells experience using jargon Uses nouns, verbs - 2 word sentences Imitates phrases Names pictures Sings phrases of songs	Interacts with peers using gestures like pushing, pulling, etc.	Engages in parallel play - uses gestures with peers Language functions: Prompted repetition Provision of information

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24-36 months	Understands complex/compound sentences Selects pictures involving action words Listens to stories Understands many action words and adjectives and some prepositions Obeys 2 part separate commands ex: give me your spoon and give mummy your cup	Uses self-centered pronouns - I, me, mine Uses expressive vocabulary of 50 + words Uses size words Verbalize few prepositions Uses expressive vocabulary of 1000 words Relates experiences using short sentences Asks questions beginning with what, where, when Uses 3 word sentences, Uses past tense but incorrectly, Uses plurals but incorrectly	Uses gestures to clarify concepts and in combination with speech Points to show direction, uses gestures to show size	Experiments with communication – Frustration when not understood Language functions: Requests for information, clarification, Provision of information, Elicited imitation or prompted repetition Expression of self
3+	Responds to where, why questions Responds to yes/no questions Responds to who/whose questions Follows 2 step commands involving sequence Responds to which/how many questions	Names most familiar pictures Uses 2 word phrases-subject, verb & object Asks "" wh questions Uses "I" Uses "s" or "es" to indicate possession or number. Uses prepositional phrases	As above	Sustains Conversation Changes speech depending on listener Describes what is happening
4+	Names objects by function Follow 3 step instructions in sequence Understands statements involving negations	Uses "and", "but" to connect sentences Uses "ing" words Correctly differentiates past, present & future verbs. Clear, easy to understand speech	As above, but greater reliance on speech and gestures more to underline or highlight an idea	Uses queries to maintain conversation Creates interest in listener Communicates knowledge
5 to 6	Responds to questions involving time concepts	Uses comparatives	As above	Able to handle communication breakdowns
6 to adolescence	Dramatic expansion of vocabulary, including abstract words during adolescence	Pronunciations become adult-like Correction of grammatical errors Use of complex rules	As above	Ability to detect and repair uninformative messages one sends and receives