

## Developmental milestones

The information below lists some typical language development. It should be understood that there is a wide range of normal development. Each child is unique and will develop at his or her own pace. If your child seems significantly behind in speech and/or language development, please consult with your physician or a speech and language pathologist.

### 3-6 months

- startle at loud or new sounds
- produces single syllable (consonant-vowel) cooing
- responds vocally to speech of others
- babbles, producing strings of consonants or consonant-vowel combinations
- vocalizes to express pleasure or displeasure

### 6-9 months

- demonstrates "vocal play" to experiment with sounds
- imitates gestures of another person
- produces adult-like intonation patterns
- uses conventional gestures (waving, pointing)
- babbles duplicate sounds ("bababa," "mama-mama")

### 9-12 months

- imitates sounds produced by another speaker
- shakes head "no," pushes undesired objects away
- produces vocalization that sound like first words ("mama," "dada")
- indicates requests clearly, directs others' behavior
- continues to produce syllable sequences with adult-like intonation patterns (jargon)

## **12-18 months**

- continues to use jargon
- uses ritual words (such as "bye," "hi," "thank you")
- produces approximately 5-20 words
- begins to produce two-word combinations (18 months)
- refers to self by name

## **18-24 months**

- able to follow simple commands
- names a number of objects common to surroundings
- combines words into a short sentence ("more cookie").
- increases vocabulary to at least 50 words
- approximately 2/3 of what child says should be understood

## **24-36 months**

- engages in short dialogues and expresses emotion
- about 80% of what child says should be understood by others
- understands about 1,000 to 2,000 words
- burst in speaking vocabulary
- begins providing descriptive words (hot, wet, big, on, up, down, etc.)

## **36-48 months**

- about 90% of what child says should be understood
- can usually repeat words of four syllables
- names common objects in picture books or magazines
- indulges in make-believe
- knows one or more colors

## 60 months

- can use many descriptive words
- can count to ten
- speech should be completely intelligible
- speech on the whole should be grammatically correct
- understands simple time concepts (morning, night, day, later, after)