

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

AGE	UNDERSTANDING		EXPRESSION	
0-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looks at the person talking, reacts to facial expressions and tone of voice Reacts to his/her first name being called 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands a few familiar words Use context and gestures to understand language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begins to smile and then laugh Coos “aaa/eee” as early as 2 months of age Vocalizes to express needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points a finger while vocalizing Waves “bye bye” with a hand or shakes the head “no” Babbles with vowels and consonants “dada-da/mamama” (6-9 months)
12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands simple instructions, with and without gestures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands simple questions: “Where?”, “Who?” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Says first word at around 12 months Verbally imitates sounds and words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses words and gestures to make himself understood or make requests
18-24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands about 200 words Points at about 4 body parts when asked 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands action words such as “Give it!” and “Show me!” Understands in, more, mine/yours, no/not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explosion of vocabulary Uses 50 to 100 words (24 months) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes two-word sentences: “More milk” Starts verbal communication, asks for help
2-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands more than 200 words Understands short, simple sentences, even when said out of context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands 2-element instructions: “Give me the apple and the banana.” Understands questions like “What is your name/How old are you?” and questions with “Who?” and “What?” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can say 100 to 300 words Is understood by relatives Can create 2-word and 3-word sentences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asks questions and gives instructions Uses determiners (a, the) and pronouns (me, you) Conjugates verbs in the past, present, and future (3 years) tenses
3-4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands 3-element instructions Understands the questions “Why?” and “How many?” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can sort objects into categories (clothing, veggies, toys) Finds the answer to simple riddles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is understood by strangers 75% of the time Uses personal pronouns (I, you, she/he/it, we, you, they) Vocabulary is more precise, uses fewer all-purpose words (this, there, thing) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates longer and more complex sentences Can report a simple event The sounds sh and zh (measure), l, r, s, z, th (think), and th (that) can take longer to master (until age 8)
4-5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands more than 1,500 words Understands the questions “When?” and “How?” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows instructions with several steps Understands many notions of space and time Makes simple deductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is understood by strangers Creates long and complex sentences with the words: with, because, who, that, if, why Can tell a story 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Usually uses verbs in the right tense Makes fewer pronunciation errors Begins to name categories