

Your child's
SPEECH & LANGUAGE
Milestones



12-18
MONTHS

| Speech | Expressive Language (Spoken Language) | Receptive Language (Language Comprehension) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Trying to copy (imitate) some words modeled by adults. <i>*Note: Child's 'words' may not sound like the adult form (e.g. "ba" for 'ball')</i> | Saying first word by 12 months. | Responds to their name. Follows single-step directions without gesture supports. |
| Makes lots of different sounds, including animal and vehicle sounds. | Has a vocabulary of approximately 30-50+ words by 18 months that is rapidly growing. | Answers simple questions nonverbally (e.g. points to object, person when asked where they are). |
| Makes sounds or says words back and forth with adults. | Using gestures on their own, like pointing to show you something interesting or something they want. | Understands 50-75+ different words. |



18-24
MONTHS

| Speech | Expressive Language (Spoken Language) | Receptive Language (Language Comprehension) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Adults understand about 50% of what child says by two years old. | Able to ask for preferred foods and toys by name on their own. | Points to body parts on self and others and can answer own name. |
| May continue to babble or use jargon (varying sounds with intonation, not in adult word form) at times. | Saying 50-100+ different words and growing consistently. Using words to ask for what they want, comment, answer questions, and ask for information. | Understands 300+ words total. |
| Produces a variety of sounds in word and babble/jargon including; p, b, d, m, n, h, w. | Starting to combine 2 words to make phrases ("more milk", "up please"). | Following 2-step directions when motivated. |

What if a child is not meeting all of their milestones?

Know that there is a range of typical development and that the need for therapy is determined by a number of factors. Delayed milestones are a good reason to seek a speech & language evaluation to find out more. Another consideration is the functional impact the child's communication has on their life; is the child's communication negatively impacting their ability to interact? to express themselves? is it causing frustration? These are important factors that help determine whether or not speech therapy would be beneficial for a child.

Our clinic provides initial evaluations to help determine whether speech therapy is recommended to support a child's development as well as ongoing treatment to support skill development.

Call us at 360-989-7347 or email info@columbiapedstherapy.com to inquire about an evaluation.

Your child's
SPEECH & LANGUAGE
Milestones



**2-3
YEARS**

| Speech | Expressive Language (Spoken Language) | Receptive Language (Language Comprehension) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Adults understand about 75% of what child says by three years old. | Average phrase length is 3 words, with many phrases consisting of 4-5+ words. | Consistently following a number of different 2-step directions. |
| Can say a variety of different words with different sound combination types (e.g. consonant-vowel like "bee", vowel-consonant such as "up", etc.) | Uses well over 500 words on their own. Is able to communicate most of their wants, needs, and thoughts using words. | Understands: prepositions, "my" vs. "your" pronouns, opposites, and can identify items when named by category (e.g. which is an animal). |
| By 3: Consistently producing m, h, w, p, b, d, and n and all vowel sounds accurately. | Using words to; ask yes/no questions, speak about events using past tense. Uses pronouns and plurals. | Answers who, where, and what questions about their environment and in books. |



**3-4
YEARS**

| Speech | Expressive Language (Spoken Language) | Receptive Language (Language Comprehension) |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Adults (even strangers) understand 100% of what child says by four years old. | Average phrases are 4+ words. Uses -ing to mark actions in progress (e.g. "She is sleeping"). | Can identify a variety of nouns, verbs, and descriptive words (e.g. size, colors) from a group of items/pictures. Knows over 1,200 words. |
| Producing a variety of multisyllabic words correctly and such that others can understand them. | Is able to describe items such as what they look like, what you use them for, and what category they're in. | Understands (and can answer) questions requiring logic/reasoning. |
| By 4 years old; Consistently producing m, h, w, p, b, d, n, f, k, g, y, and 'ng'. May distort or have trouble saying more difficult consonants, but will attempt to produce them (e.g. l, r, s, sh, ch, v, dg, th) | Expresses self beyond basic wants and needs, such as thoughts, ideas, and feelings. Can describe an event with details. | Understands concepts such as negation, can follow storylines, and understands 3rd person pronouns (e.g. she, her, he, his). |

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