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## **Speech and Language Development**

### **0-6 Months**

Child is repeating same sounds. Frequently coos, gurgles and makes pleasure sounds, uses a different cry to express different needs, smiles when spoken to, recognizes voices, localizes sound by turning head, listens to speech, uses phonemes /b/, /p/, /m/ in babbling, and uses sounds or gestured to indicate wants.

### **7-12 Months**

Child understands 'no' and 'hot,' responds to simple requests, understands and responds to own name, listens to and imitates some sounds, recognizes some words for common items, babbles using long and short groups of sounds, uses song like intonation pattern when babbling, imitates some adult speech sounds in babbling and intonation patterns, uses speech sounds rather than only crying to get attention, listens when spoken to, uses sound approximations, begins to change babbling to jargon, uses speech intentionally for the first time, uses nouns almost exclusively, has an expressive vocabulary of 1-3 words, and understands simple commands.

### **13-18 Months**

Child uses adult-like intonation patterns, uses echolalia and jargon, uses jargon to fill gaps in fluency, omits some initial consonants and almost all final consonants, produces mostly unintelligible speech, follows simple commands, receptively identifies 1-3 body parts, has an expressive vocabulary of 3-20 more words, combines gestures and vocalization, and makes requests for more of desired items.

### **19-24 Months**

Child uses words more frequently than jargon, has an expressive vocabulary of 50-100 more words, has a receptive vocabulary of 300 more words, starts to combine nouns and verbs, begins to use pronouns, maintains unstable voice control, uses appropriate intonation for questions, is approximately 25-50% intelligible to strangers, answers "what's that?" questions, enjoys listening to stories, knows 5 body parts, and accurately names a few familiar objects.

### **2-3 years**

Child's speech is 50-75% intelligible, understands 'one' and 'all,' verbalizes toilet needs, requests items by name, points to pictures in a book when named, identifies several body parts, follows simple commands, answers simple questions, enjoys listening to short stories, songs, rhymes, asks 1-2 word questions, uses 3-4 word phrases, uses some prepositions, articles, present progressive verbs, regular plurals, contractions, irregular past tense forms, uses words that are general in context, receptive vocabulary of 500-900 or more, expressive vocabulary of 50-250 or more words, exhibits multiple grammatical errors, understands most things said to him/her,

frequently exhibits repetitions, speaks with a loud voice, increases range of pitch, uses vowels correctly, consistently uses initial consonants, uses 27 phonemes, uses 'is,' and uses some regular past tense verbs, pronouns, and imperatives.

### **3-4 Years**

Child understands object functions, understands differences in meanings, follows 2-3 step commands, asks and answers simple questions, frequently asks questions and often demands detail in responses, produces simple verbal analogies, uses language to express emotion, uses 4-5 words in sentences, repeats 6-13 syllable sentences, identifies objects by name, manipulates adults and peers, continues to use echolalia, uses up to 6 words in a sentence, uses nouns and verbs more frequently, is conscious of past and future, receptive vocabulary of 1200-2000 or more words, expressive vocabulary of 800-1500 or more words, may repeat self, increase speech rate, whispers, masters 50% of consonants and blends, speech is 80% intelligible, sentence grammar improves, tells 2 events in order, and engages in long conversations.

### **4-5 Years**

Child understands concept of numbers up to 3, continues understanding of special concepts, recognizes 1-3 colors, receptive vocabulary of 2800 or more words, counts to 10 by rote, listens to short, simple stories, answers questions about function, uses grammatically correct sentences, expressive vocabulary of 900-2000 or more words, uses sentences of 4-8 words, answers complex 2-part questions, asks for word definitions, speaks at a rate of 186 words per minute, reduces total number of repetitions, enjoys rhymes, rhythms, and nonsense syllables, produces consonants with 90% accuracy, speech is intelligible to strangers, talks about experiences at school, relays a long story, and pays attention to story and answers questions about it.

### **5-6 Years**

Child names 6 basic colors and 3 basic shapes, follows instructions given to a group, follows 3-part commands, asks 'how' questions, answers to 'hi' and 'how are you?,' uses past tense and future tense, uses conjunctions, receptive vocabulary of 13,000 words, names opposites, names days of the week, counts to 30 by rote, exchanges information and asks questions, uses sentences with details, relays a story, sings entire songs and recites nursery rhymes, and communicates easily with adults and others.

### **6-7 Years**

Child names some letters, numbers, and currencies, sequences numbers, understands 'left' and 'right,' uses increasingly more complex descriptions, engages in conversations, receptive vocabulary of 20,000 words, uses sentence length of 6 words or more, understands concept of time, counts to 100 by rote, uses most morphologic markers appropriately, and uses passive voice appropriately.