



We Improve Communication for Life

## Speech Language Development Track for Children Age 0-1

### BY THE AGE OF ONE YEAR, A CHILD SHOULD.....

- Do a lot of babbling (i.e. repeating a syllable several times,) for example: ba, ba, ba.
- Use many different sounds when babbling.
- Use different "sing-song" patterns.
- Say a few words and some of his/her babbling should be close to words.
- Understand some very basic commands such as: "come here."
- Stop and look at you when you call his/her name.
- Understand some common words (for example: ball, shoe, bottle.)
- Play "peek-a-boo."
- Imitate some of the sounds that you make.

### HOW TO FACILITATE SPEECH/LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AT THIS AGE:

- Talk with you child during every activity.
- While feeding, bathing, and playing, label the objects with which you are in contact.
- Imitate anything that sounds like a word.
- Play games which encourage your child to imitate such as "pat-a-cake," "peek-a-boo, and "so big."

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## Speech Language Development Track For Children Age 1-2

### BY THE AGE OF TWO YEARS, A CHILD SHOULD.....

- Understand approximately 300 words.
- Point to five body parts on self or a doll.
- Listen to simple stories.
- Follow two step related commands (for example: put on your shoes and socks.)
- Understand one or two simple spatial concepts (for example: in, on.)
- Recognize five or more pictures.
- Respond appropriately to yes/no questions.
- Use approximately 50 words.
- Combine two words into phrases.
- Occasionally use three to four words phrases.
- Say own name when asked/Verbalize "no."
- Occasionally use pronouns.
- Begin to use some verbs (for example: go, eat, want)/Possessive emerging (daddy car.)
- Use sounds such as: m, n, p, b, t, d, k, g, w, h, but may not be consistently correct.

### HOW TO FACILITATE SPEECH/LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AT THIS AGE:

- Read to your child-point to the pictures and talk about them. Raise and lower your voice when talking about the book.
- Talk to your child about everything.
- Talk about what you are doing and what your child is doing.
- Expand on what your child says. Add one or two words to their sentence (for example: "truck," "a big, red, truck.")
- Acknowledge what your child needs and therefore make speech and language necessary.
- Wait for your child to communicate their needs to you.

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## Speech Language Development Track For Children Age 2-3

### BY THE AGE OF THREE YEARS, A CHILD SHOULD.....

- Use 3-4 word sentences.
- Ask and answer simple questions (who, what, where, why.)
- Understand basic concepts and opposites (hot/cold, big/little, on/off, night/day.)
- Follow 2-step unrelated directions (for example: put your car in the toy box and bring your bear to me.)
- Understand 800-1500 words and use 250-800 words/Speech is understood 80% of the time.
- Tell a simple story and talk about past events.
- Use all vowels correctly.
- Use the following sounds consistently: m, b, p, w, h, n.
- Use the following sounds inconsistently: k, g, t, d, f, y.

### HOW TO FACILITATE SPEECH/LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AT THIS AGE:

- Read books together. Comment on the objects and actions and discuss different concepts when possible (up/down, high/low, same/different, hot/cold, big/little.) Take turns reading the story – you read first (with comments) and then have your child “read it” to you.
- Help your child talk about past events by directing the flow of conversation.
- Encourage your child to listen to directions.
- Use pointing and gestures to help him/her understand.
- Model good speech for your child. Be a good listener and expect errors. Help your child learn emerging speech sounds by exaggerating difficult sounds rather than correcting them in your own speech (for example: stress beginning of “goat, kite.”)

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## Speech Language Development Track For Children Age 3-4

### BY THE AGE OF FOUR YEARS, A CHILD SHOULD.....

- Be able to say most speech sounds correctly (p, b, m, w, h, y, d, k, g, f, v, sh, ch, y, and ing.)
- Have a vocabulary of approximately 1500 different words.
- Use 4-5 word sentences.
- Use lots of questions in conversation to obtain information.
- Use the pronouns he, she, I, you, we, and they.
- Identify own name when he/she sees it.
- Understand the concept "for pretend" to engage in imaginary play such as "playing house."
- Comprehend time concepts such as "tomorrow"; relationships such as "if...then," "because," and quantity concepts such as "one" or "more."
- Follow 2-4 step related directions.
- Easily answer most questions like who, what, why, and where.

### HOW TO FACILITATE SPEECH/LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AT THIS AGE:

- Have you child describe objects and actions from pictures on T.V.
- Have you child talk about comparisons between many different objects.
- During daily activities, talk about what you are doing, why, and what you see. Have your child practice doing the same.
- Ask your child complex questions and help him/her to formulate responses that are logical.
- Discuss sequences of event before, during, and after they happen.

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## Speech Language Development Track For Children Age 4-5

### BY THE AGE OF FIVE YEARS, A CHILD SHOULD.....

- Be easily understood by other children and adults.
- Produce all sounds correctly except one or two.
- Attend to a story and answer simple questions about it.
- Follow 3-step directions.
- Produce grammatically correct sentences.
- Ask for definitions of unfamiliar words.
- Possess a large vocabulary.
- Speak about school, experiences, and activities with friends; accurately tell a long story.
- Begin to correctly use relational terms such as then, when, first, next, last, while, before, and after.
- Demonstrate highly imaginative play, set up the environment without realistic props.

### HOW TO FACILITATE SPEECH/LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT AT THIS AGE:

- Provide correct models for speech sound errors (for example: Child: "I yike it." Parent "I like it too.")
- Repeat sentence after your child if grammatical errors are heard.
- Ask the child to repeat directions to ensure comprehension.
- Break down directions into one part at a time.
- Have your child arrange pictures in the correct order and tell a story.
- Discuss and use relational terms such as then, when, first, next, last, while, before, and after.
- Look words up in dictionary to expand vocabulary.
- Seek a full speech and language evaluation when in doubt.

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