

Age	Receptive Language	Expressive Language	Speech
8-24 months	Understands 2-word relations (ex. "Boy go." Or "cat there."). Listens to simple stories, songs, and rhymes. Points to pictures in books and body parts upon request. Follows simple, routine commands (ex. "Go get your shoes.").	Requests information (ex. "What dat?", "Where kitty?"). Answers simple questions. Vocabulary of 200-300 words by 24 months. Puts 2 words together (ex. "more cookie", "go bye bye?"). Seems to acquire new words every month.	Understood 50% of the time. Common phonological processes observed: Reduplication ("wawa" for "water"), Weak syllable deletion ("nana" for "banana"), Assimilation ("tat" for "cat"), Fronting ("tea" for "key"), Final Consonant Deletion ("tray" for "train"). May use sounds such as /b, d, t, k, g, m, n, h, w, p, f/, but not always correctly.
24-30 months	Understands "who?", "what?", and "what is X doing?" questions.	Uses 2-3 word utterances. Uses "please" for polite requests. Engages in symbolic play. Tells stories by primarily just labelling and describing. Asks questions with rising intonation. Grammar: plural "-s", <i>can't</i> , <i>don't</i> for negation. Aware of rhyme.	Uses sounds more correctly, and more sounds in consonant repertoire, such as /v, s, z, sh/. May still use phonological processes such as: Cluster simplification ("tar" for "star"), Liquid simplification ("wain" for "rain"), Stopping ("tick" for "sick"), Weak syllable deletion ("nana" for "banana").
30-36 months	Understands "Why?". Understands many different concepts, such as opposites, locatives, and simple adjectives. Follows 2-step instructions.	Uses more language during play. Stories are more like sequences of action with no real plot. Asks "why?" questions and uses spatial terms ( <i>in, on, under</i> ). Can engage in longer conversations. May overgeneralize past tense verbs, ex. "runned". Can use present auxiliaries, ex. ("he is coming").	Understood 75% of the time. Uses /m, w, h, p, b/ correctly in words 90% of the time.
36-48 months	Understands basic colour words and kinship terms.	Auxiliary reversal for questions ("Can I go?"). Stories are primitive narratives with some temporal markers, such as "and then". First complex sentences emerge. Grammar: Irregular past, articles ( <i>a, the</i> ), possessive "-s", <i>doesn't, isn't, didn't, wasn't, couldn't</i> . Sentences are 4+ words long. Vocabulary of over 5,000 words.	Use of the following Phonological processes is less common: Reduplication, Weak syllable deletion, Final consonant deletion, and Cluster reduction. Non-family members usually understand the child. Child talks easily without repeating syllables or words. Should be able to use /t, k, n, g, d, f/correctly in words 90% of the time.
48-60 months	Pays attention to short stories and answers questions about them. Understands most of what is said at home and in school. Answers hypothetical questions, such as "What would happen if it stopped raining?" or "How many ways can we sort these buttons?".	Requests clarification. Able to stick to topic when telling stories, which start to show some plot. Knows some letter names and sounds, numbers and counting. Grammar: conjugations <i>when, so, because, if</i> ; regular past tense forms, third person "-s". Uses more complex sentences. Segments words into syllables.	Understood 100% of the time. Most sounds produced correctly in words, except /l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th/ and /-, r-, and s-blends.

