



Communication Timeline

Birth:

Does your child listen to speech?
Does your child startle or cry at noises?
Does your child awaken at loud sounds?

0 – 3 Months

Does your child repeat the same sounds a lot (cooing, gooing)?
Does your child cry differently for different needs?
Does your child smile when he/she sees you?
Does your child turn to you when you speak?
Does your child smile when spoken to?
Does your child seem to recognize your voice & quiet down if crying?

4 – 6 Months

Does your child respond to “no”? Changes in your tone of voice?
Does your child look around for the source of new sounds, e.g., the doorbell, vacuum, dog barking?
Does your child notice toys that make sound?
Does your child’s babbling sound more speech-like with lots of different sounds, including p, b, & m?
Does your child tell you (by sound or gesture) when he/she wants you to do something again?
Does your child make gurgling sounds when left alone? When lying with you?

7 Months – 1 Year

Does your child enjoy games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake?
Does your child turn or look up when you call him or her name?
Does your child listen when spoken to?
Does your child recognize words for common items like “cup”, “shoe”, “juice”?
Has your child begun to respond to requests (“Come here”, “Want more?”)?
Does your child have 1 or 2 words (bye-bye, dada, mama, no) although they may not be clear?
Does your child’s babbling have both long & short groups of sounds such as ‘tata upup bibibibi’?
Does your child imitate different speech sounds?

1 – 2 Years

Can your child point to pictures in a book when they are named?
Does your child point to a few body parts when asked?

Can your child follow simple commands and understand simple questions (“Roll the ball”, “Kiss the baby”, “Where’s your shoe?”)?
Does your child listen to simple stories, songs, and rhymes?
Does your child use speech or non-crying sounds to get and keep your attention?
Is your child saying more and more words every month?
Does your child use some 1-2 word questions (“where kitty?”, “go bye-bye?”, “what’s that?”)?
Does your child put 2 words together (“more cookie”, “no juice”, “mommy block?”)?

2 – 3 Years

Does your child understand differences in meaning (“go-stop”: “in-on”: “big-little”: “Up-down”)? of words?
Does your child continue to notice sounds (telephone ringing, television sound, knocking at the door)?
Can your child follow two requests (“get the ball and put it on the table”)?
Does your child use many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words?
Does your child have a word for almost everything?
Does your child use 2-3 word “sentences” to talk about and ask for things?
Do you understand your child’s speech most of the time?
Does your child often ask for or direct your attention to objects by naming them?

3 – 4 Years

Does your child hear you when you call from another room?
Does your child hear television or radio at the same loudness as other members of the family?
Does your child answer simple “who” “what”, “where”, “why”, questions?
Does your child talk about what he/she does at school or at friends’ homes?
Does your child say most sounds correctly except a few like r, l, th and s?
Does your child usually talk easily without repeating syllables or words?
Do people outside your family usually understand your child’s speech?
Does your child use a lot of sentences that have 4 or more words?