

Milestones of speech, language and communication development

24 - 30 Months

The rate of children's speech and language development can vary, depending on the child. Some children will develop certain skills quicker than others, and some children will be slow to develop certain skills compared to their peers, even if there are no related problems. This information sheet is just a general guideline, and many experts vary considerably on what they believe to be the normal stages of development.

You will see that many skills mentioned are repeated over several age groups as children are all different and some take longer to develop these abilities. So just use this chart as a very general guideline rather than read too much into it. There also may be some difference between boys and girls and when they develop certain skills.

To try and make this chart easier to read I have created a made-up child called Bill. Bill was lucky, he had a childhood free of any illness or accidents and he had proactive parents who played with him and gave him lots of quality 1:1 attention and play-time

The milestones information sheets focus on 6 areas of development:

- Speech and Auditory Awareness
- Expressive Language and semantics (content)
- Social use of Language (use and pragmatics)
- Receptive language (comprehension, perceiving and understanding) and cognition
- Morphology and syntax (structure)
- Gross and fine motor skills

During the 24 -30 month period of development Bill is starting follow 2-step instructions. His expressive language has increased to 200 words by 30 months and he is becoming much more understandable.



Speech and Auditory Awareness: 24 - 30 Months

Bill is really starting to talk more freely now and by 30 months has an expressive vocabulary of 200 words. Many sounds have to develop still but he has **m n p b t d h w** in his inventory and **ng k g** are now being used more freely. More consonants appear in word final positions (m,b,p), although he still overpronounces some words, produces the same words differently, shortens words, and misses out medial (middle) sounds.

Although Bill's speech contains omissions and approximations, his speech is still 75% understandable to friends and family. His use of jargon is disappearing and he is able to whisper.

Expressive Language and semantics (content): 24 - 30 Months

As the growth in single words increases Bill starts to use a lot more 2-word combinations. He begins to use verbs, uses some personal pronouns (me/you) and possessive pronoun "mine", and begins to use his own name to talk about himself. He can now answer "who/what" questions and uses negation "don't / no"

Bill imitates new words that others say and uses words in creative ways (e.g., a stick thrown into the sky becomes a bird).

Social use of Language (use and pragmatics): 24 - 30 Months

Bill is now referring to himself by name. He is more readily responding to requests from adults as well as requesting more information about new things in return. He wants to describe events after they occur and is becoming more skilled with turntaking and conversation.

He will verbalize basic needs for food and drink.

Bill starts to initiate pretend play more often and starts to play parallel with other children. He is imitating symbolic play e.g. household activities and using one object for another and pretending to talk on the phone.



Receptive language (comprehension, perceiving and understanding) and cognition: 24 - 30 Months

Along with the growth in expressive language Bill's understanding of language is growing at a fast rate. He is following 2-step instructions easily and understanding sentences containing simple prepositions in/on/under and different sizes (big/little). His understanding of pronouns also increases and he can differentiate between he/she/they/we.

Bill probably now understands the meanings of between 500-900 words, which is far in excess of the words he actually uses expressively.

Bill is also developing other skills, he can match identical pictures and shapes and is understanding number concepts one and two.

Bill is well aware of cause and effect now and knows that pressing buttons and pulling strings make things happen.

Morphology and syntax (structure): 24 - 30 Months

Bill is combining 2-word phrases and may even be attempting simple 3-word phrases as his confidence grows e.g. "Daddy bye-bye."

He begins to use verbs, uses some personal pronouns (me/you) and possessive pronoun "mine", and begins to use his own name to talk about himself. He can now answer "who/what" questions and uses negation "don't / no"

Gross and fine motor skills: 24 - 30 Months

Bill is now climbing easy apparatus, jumps with 2 feet together and is attempting to use a tricycle.

His fine motor skills are also developing at a fast rate with Bill eating skilfully with a spoon and putting on his hat and shoes.

Bill is also becoming better at manipulating his toys, building a tower of 4-6 blocks, painting dots and lines and imitating horizontal and vertical lines and circles, activating mechanical toys and being able to place a triangle, circle and square in shape board, and thread a bead.

To learn more about child development, speech and language development, and what to do if your child has a speech and language delay visit our website www.icommunicatetherapy.com.



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Suggested Reading

The Wonder Years: Helping Your Baby and Young Child Successfully Negotiate The Major Developmental Milestones by American Academy Of Pediatrics (Author), Tanya Remer Altmann

Developing Child, The by Helen Bee and Denise Boyd

Milestones: Normal Speech And Language Development Across the Lifespan by Jr., Ph.D. Oller, et al John W.

Child Development by Laura E. Berk

Ages and Stages: A Parent's Guide to Normal Childhood Development by Charles E. Schaefer and Theresa Foy DiGeronimo

Child Development, Second Edition: A Practitioner's Guide (Social Work Practice with Children and Families) by Douglas D Davies

Child Development by Robert S. Feldman

What's Going on in There? : How the Brain and Mind Develop in the First Five Years of Life by Lise Eliot

Child Development: Principles and Perspectives by J. Littlefield Cook & G. Cook

Let's Talk Together - Home Activities for Early Speech & Language Development by Amy Chouinard and Cory Poland

Born to Talk: An Introduction to Speech and Language Development by Lloyd M. Hult and Merle R. Howard

Speaking, Listening and Understanding: Games for Young Children by Catherine Delamain and Jill Spring

Childhood Speech, Language & Listening Problems: What Every Parent Should Know by Patricia McAleer Hamaguchi

The Parents Guide to Speech and Language Problems by Debbie Feit

The Handbook of Child Language Disorders by Richard G. Schwartz

Does My Child Have a Speech Problem? by Katherine L. Martin

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