

Milestones of speech, language and communication development

72+ 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

At the 72+ month period of development Bill is at school. His listening and attention skills are improving so he can attend and learn well. He has a big vocabulary and can articulate his thoughts and feelings well. He continues to learn new vocabulary and skills.



Speech and Auditory Awareness: 72+ Months

Speech is error-free and adult-like.

Expressive Language and semantics (content): 72+ Months

Bill's vocabulary continues to grow and he is able to converse and argue his point of view.

Social use of Language (use and pragmatics): 72+ Months

Bill comprehends subtle humor and giggles about silly things. He uses the telephone for social calls.

Bill now regularly plays games with rules and enjoys football. He will regularly argue about the rules. There is also more focus on the social aspects of play and the acceptance of the group.

Receptive language (comprehension, perceiving and understanding) and cognition: 72+ Months

Bill's understanding of the world around him increases especially as he is now attending school. He has to listen, process and learn, often only by listening to information. However, his auditory memory and processing skills are such that he does not have difficulties taking on board and storing new information.

Morphology and syntax (structure): 72+ Months

Bill is now able to use passive sentence forms, e.g., "The bus was hit by the car" and he will correct his own sentence errors. He now uses mature expressions, e.g., "This is serious. Dad is allergic to cats and we have a mouse in the cellar".

Bill argues verbally and uses more complex negation often, e.g., "I can't get it," or "I can't figure it out".

He uses mature vocabulary, e.g., "surprisingly," "frightening," "disappointing".

Gross and fine motor skills: 72+ Months

Bill continues to excel at certain motor tasks that involve art and sport.

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.



To learn more about child development, communication, and developing your child's speech and language skills and to read about and purchase books, see our website. [Www.icommunicatetherapy.com](http://www.icommunicatetherapy.com) . Click this link to see our online Resource Centre

[Book Shop](#)

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

www.icommunicatetherapy.com

Your Total Online Speech, Language & Communication Therapy Resource. Visit us today. Click here.