

COMMUNICATION MILESTONES

Ages & Stages



4-5 YEARS

- understands first/next/then, yesterday, today, tomorrow
- follows longer directions
- makes sound & letter connections
- sentences are longer (prepositions)
- new sounds v, sh, ch, j, blends (r & th may develop up to 7yrs)



3-4 YEARS

- understands colour/shapes, beside/behind
- understands concepts beside, behind
- understands & asks many wh questions
- uses pronouns you, we, they, he, she
- using plural words, combines 4 wds
- new sounds: ng, y, s, z
- engages in make believe play



2-3 YEARS

- understand opposites & under, in, on
- follows 2-step directions
- new sounds: k, g, f, t, d, n, h
- combines 2-3 words
- asking why, & uses action words
- takes multiple turns in play



1-2 YEARS

- follows single step directions
- responds to questions, (where's mom?)
- new sounds: m, p, b, w
- combines two words (more juice)
- new vocabulary 50-100 words
- copies during play, comments



0-12 MONTHS

- makes cooing sounds then babbles
- cries and smiles to express needs
- attends to sounds (toys & people)
- plays people games (peek-a-boo)
- responds to simple directions
- may use 1-4 words (hi, dada)



WHEN TO MAKE A REFERRAL

to a *Speech-Language Pathologist*

4 TO 5 YEARS

- struggles to understand & retell stories
- still has multiple sounds that are not pronounced correctly (not /r/or/th/)
- difficulty with sound-letter connections & other phonemic awareness skills (rhyme)
- struggles with peer interactions

3 TO 4 YEARS

- not understanding 'wh' questions
- not using pronouns correctly and making sentences that are grammatically incorrect
- speech is unclear to unfamiliar listeners
- not able to identify emotions and express & manage own emotions
- difficulty entering & staying in play

2 TO 3 YEARS

- not following simple single & 2-step directions (e.g., get your shoes)
- limited verbal vocabulary
- not combing two words together
- not engaging or taking turns in play
- not using toys appropriately

1 TO 2 YEARS

- did not coo or babble
- not engaging with communication partner by looking at them, copying their actions or pointing to things
- using under 10 words
- not making early sounds (p, b, m)

