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Speech and Language Developmental Checklist (0-5 years)

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Parent's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Check each box for skills your child has mastered.

0-6 Months

- Repeats the same sounds
- Frequently coos, gurgles, and makes pleasure sounds
- Uses a different cry to express different needs
- Smiles when spoken to
- Recognizes voices
- Localizes sound by turning head
- Listens to speech
- Uses the phonemes /b/, /p/, and /m/ in babbling
- Uses sounds or gestures to indicate wants

7-12 Months

- Understands no and hot
- Responds to simple requests
- Understands and responds to own name
- Listens to and imitates some sounds
- Recognizes words for common items (e.g., cup, shoe, juice)
- Babbles using long and short groups of sounds
- Uses a song-like intonation pattern when babbling
- Uses a large variety of sounds in babbling
- Imitates some adult speech sounds and intonation patterns
- Uses speech sounds rather than only crying to get attention
- Listens when spoke to
- Uses sound approximations

- Begins to change babbling to jargon
- Uses speech intentionally for the first time
- Uses nouns almost exclusively
- Expressively uses 1 to 3 words
- Understands simple commands

13-18 Months

- Uses adult-like intonation patterns
- Repeats adult-like words and phrases
- Uses jargon to fill gaps in fluency
- Omits some initial consonants and almost all final consonants
- Produces mostly unintelligible speech
- Follows simple commands
- Receptively identifies 1 to 3 body parts
- Expressively uses 3 to 20 or more words (mostly nouns)
- Combines gestures and vocalization
- Makes requests for more of desired items

19-24 Months

- Uses words more frequently than jargon
- Expressively uses 50 to 100 or more words
- Understands 300 or more words
- Starts to combine nouns and verbs
- Begins to use pronouns
- Maintains unstable voice control
- Uses appropriate intonation for questions
- Is approximately 25-50% intelligible to strangers
- Answers “what’s that?” questions
- Enjoys listening to stories
- Knows 5 body parts
- Accurately names a few familiar objects

2-3 Years

- Speech is 50-75% understandable
- Understands “one” and “all”
- Verbalizes toilet needs (before, during, or after act)
- Requests items by name
- Names everyday objects
- Points to pictures in a book when named
- Identifies several body parts
- Follows simple commands and answers simple questions
- Enjoys listening to short stories, songs, and rhymes
- Ask 1- to 2-word questions

- Uses 3- to 4-word Phrases
- Uses some prepositions, articles, present progressive verbs, regular plurals, contractions, and irregular past tense forms
- Produces several forms of questions
- Understands “why”, “who”, “whose”, and “how many”
- Continues use of repetition/mimicking when difficulties in speech are encountered
- Understands 500-900 or more words
- Expressively uses 50-250 or more words (rapid growth during this period)
- Exhibits multiple grammatical errors
- Understands most things said to him or her
- Frequently exhibits repetitions –especially starters, “I,” and first syllables
- Speaks with a loud voice
- Increases range of pitch
- Uses vowels correctly
- Consistently uses initial consonants (although some are misarticulated)
- May leave out middle and ending consonants in words
- Uses a big variety of speech sounds
- Uses: past tense (ran, jumped), possessive (his, hers, mine, Sarah’s), and pronouns (he, she, I, they)

3-4 Years

- Understands object functions
- Understands differences in meanings (stop-go, in-on, big-little)
- Follows 2- and 3-part commands
- Asks and answers simple questions (who, what where why)
- Frequently asks questions and often demands detail in response
- Produces simple verbal analogies
- Uses language to express emotion
- Uses 4 to 5 words in sentences
- Repeats 6- to 13- syllable sentences accurately
- Identifies objects by name
- Manipulates adults and peers
- May continue to use echolalia
- Uses up to 6 words in a sentence
- Uses nouns and verbs most frequently
- Is conscious of past and future
- Has a 1,200-2,000 or more word receptive vocabulary
- Has a 800-1,500 or more word expressive vocabulary
- May repeat self often, exhibiting blocks, disturbed breathing, and facial grimaces during speech
- Increase speech rate
- Whispers
- Masters 50% of consonants and blends
- Speech is 80% intelligible

- Sentence grammar improves although some errors still persist
- Appropriately uses “is”, “are”, and “am” in sentences
- Tells two events in chronological order
- Engages in long conversations
- Uses some contractions, irregular plurals, future tense verbs, and conjunctions
- Consistently uses regular plurals, possessives, and simple past tense verbs

4-5 Years

- Imitatively counts to 5
- Understands concept of numbers up to 3
- Continues understanding of spatial concepts
- Recognizes 1 to 3 colors
- Has a receptive vocabulary of 2,800 or more words
- Counts to 10 by rote
- Listens to short simple stories
- Answers questions about function
- Uses grammatically correct sentences
- Has an expressive vocabulary of 900-2,000 or more words
- Uses sentences of 4 to 8 words
- Answers complex 2-part questions
- Asks for word definition
- Speaks at a rate of approximately 186 words per minute
- Reduces total number of repetitions
- Enjoys rhythms, rhymes, and nonsense syllables
- Produces consonants with 90% accuracy
- Significantly reduces number of persistent sound omissions and substitutions
- Frequently omits middle consonants
- Speech is usually intelligible to strangers
- Talks about experiences at school, at friends’ homes, etc.
- Accurately relays a long story
- Pays attention to a story and answers simple questions about it
- Uses some irregular plurals, possessive pronouns, future tense, reflexive pronouns, and comparative morphemes in sentences

Please summarize your child’s communication abilities and/or concerns you may have:

