

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

MONTHS EXPRESSIVE

RECEPTIVE

SPEECH/ARTIC

18-24 Uses approx. 50+ words; words are mostly nouns, some verbs, and adjectives
 Begins to ask questions
 Uses two-word sentences; may begin to use three-word sentences
 Begins to use pronouns and negation appears
 Can name some objects when shown pictures of them
 Can repeat words and sequence of words

Understands approx. 300 words
 Will be able to point to several body parts and follow simple directions
 Can respond verbally or non-verbally to yes/no questions
 Understands simple questions
 Understands many words he/she cannot say

Combines /m/, /d/, /w/, /b/ clearly with vowels
 Approx. 50% intelligibility

24-30 Uses approx. 50-200 words
 Answers and asks simple questions
 Begins to use simple articles ("a", "the")
 Begins to use plural forms
 Uses 2-3 word sentences (average)
 Beginning to use "-ing"
 Names one color and uses more pronouns
 Begins to use prepositions such as "in", "on", "down", "up"
 Begins to add third person on verbs (continues into next stage)

Understands approx. 300-500 words
 Follows simple commands
 Understands the concept of "one"
 Can point to many everyday objects when asked to
 Understands size differences
 big/little, small/large

Articulates clearly /m/, /p/, /w/, /n/, /b/
 Some substitution and omission of final consonants
 Approx. 65% intelligibility

30-36 Approx. 200-500 words
 Answers simple "who", "why", and "where" questions
 Most sentences are 3-4 words long
 Beginning to ask yes/no questions
 Uses "is", "do", "can", "will"
 Uses some past tense on regular verbs
 Uses adverbs, more plural forms, and pronouns
 Starting to use possessives
 Uses demonstrative pronouns "this", "that"

Understands approx. 500-1000 words
 Understands concepts big/little, in/on/under, front/behind
 Can follow 2-3 commands in order
 Demonstrates an understanding of simple verbs
 Understands longer sentences

Usually articulates clearly /m/, /p/, /b/, /n/, /b/, /w/
 Continues to have some substitutions and omissions of final consonants
 May be adding more sounds
 Approx. 70% intelligibility

36-42 Uses approx. 500-900 words
 Asks more complex questions
 Uses more plural forms and "are" with plural nouns
 Uses more sentences that are 4-5 words long
 Uses "and", "is", "are", "am"
 Some contractions present
 Knows name, age, and sex
 Uses noun-adjective and noun-verb in sentences

Understands 1000-1200 words
 Responds to 2 series commands more consistently
 Understands concepts such as rough/smooth, herd/soft
 Begins to understand categories of objects

/d/, /k/, /g/, /t/, ng, /s/, /y/ are added to speech
 A few misarticulations may still be present on some of these sounds
 Intelligibility is approx. 75%

42-48 Uses approx. 900-1500 words
 Asks "how", "why", "when" questions
 Uses sentences 4-6 words in length (average)
 Has long conversations with others
 Uses possessives, negative "not", past tense
 Uses present progressive tense
 Uses more adverbs
 Knows some opposites
 Uses pronouns more consistently

Understands approx. 1000-2000 words
 Will follow 3 level commands
 Recognizes colors
 Understands prepositions
 Understands action agents

/l/, sh, /r/, j are emerging correctly.
 A few misarticulation are still present
 Consonants and blends are 50% accurate
 Approx. 80% intelligibility

48-60 Uses approx. 2000 words
 Names two or more colors
 Uses sentences with 4-7 words (average)
 Uses the conjunction "because"
 Counts 10 objects
 Answers complex 2-part questions

Understands approx. 2000-3000 words
 Will point to colors on request
 Understands the concept of "3"
 Can point to at least 8 body parts

All consonants are used by the majority of children at this age.
 /s/, /z/, th, ch, -er are not be completely mastered
 Approx. 90% intelligible

The above was not meant to be all-inclusive. It serves as a basic outline of some developmental milestones. Some ages overlap and some variations exist.