

DEVELOPMENTAL CHECKLIST FOR INFANTS, TODDLERS & SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

By 12 Months: Does your child...

- Listen when spoken to
- Understand & respond to own name
- Respond to simple requests
- Recognize words for common items like “ball” and “cup”
- Imitate some speech sounds & intonation patterns
- Use sound approximations
- Begin to change babbling to jargon
- Have an expressive vocabulary of 1 – 3 words

By 12-18 Months: Does your child...

- Point to a few body parts when asked
- Follow simple commands
- Respond with words or gestures to a question, such as: “What’s that?” or “Where’s your shoe?”
- Imitate individual words
- Produce mostly unintelligible speech
- Has an expressive vocabulary of 3 – 20 or more words
- Produce more words every month

By 19-24 Months: Does your child...

- Listen to simple stories, songs & rhymes
- Point to pictures in a book when named
- Know 5 body parts
- Use words more frequently than jargon
- Accurately name a few familiar objects
- Have an expressive vocabulary of 50-100 or more words
- Ask & answer “What’s that?” questions
- Is approximately 25-50% intelligible to strangers

By 2-3 Years: Does your child...

- Follow 2-part commands
- Identify several body parts
- Understand most things said to him or her
- Have an expressive vocabulary of 50-250 or more words
- Request items by name
- Request permission for items or activities
- Defends own possessions

- Begin to control behavior verbally rather than physically
- Ask 1-2 word questions
- Use 2-4 word phrases
- Exhibit multiple grammatical errors
- Produce speech that is 50-75% intelligible
- Maintain topic over several conversational turns

By 3-4 Years: Does your child...

- Follow 2 & 3 part commands
- Use language to express emotion
- Use 4-5 words in sentences
- Tell two events in chronological order
- Engage in long conversations
- Answer wh-questions (e.g., who, what, where)
- Make eye contact with peers & adults
- Appear lost or disinterested when someone is talking to them
- Have difficulty paying attention or listening to simple instructions
- Produce speech that is approximately 80% intelligible to strangers

By 4-5 Years: Does your child...

- Use sentences of 4-8 words
- Accurately tells about experiences at school, at friends' homes, etc.
- Listen to short stories & answer simple questions about them
- Tells stories that stick to topic
- Use language to resolve disputes with peers
- Use words to invite others to play
- Use adult-like grammar most of the time
- Produce speech that is usually intelligible to strangers even though some articulation errors may persist

By 5-6 Years: Does your child...

- Follow instructions given to a group
- Uses sentence length of 4-6 words
- Exchanges information & asks questions
- Uses sentences with details
- Accurately relays a story
- Communicates easily with adults & other children
- Uses appropriate grammar in most cases

School Age Child: Does your child...

- Use increasingly more complex descriptions
- Engages in conversation
- Grasp details or main ideas in stories

- Understands & uses figurative expressions
- Organize sentences & stories
- Draw conclusions & inferences
- Paraphrase & rephrase with ease
- Have the ability to reason
- Look at things from another's perspective
- Retrieve/access words easily

Collated by Gina Costello, M.S. CCC-SLP from speech therapy resources.