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

Taken from Assessment in Speech-Language Pathology: A Resource Manual 2nd Edition
- 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 grammas 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:

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