

Speech & Language Milestones: What to Expect

Every child develops at their own pace, but here are some general milestones that give you an idea of what to expect. If you're unsure, trust your instincts. Early support makes a big difference.

By 2 years

- Uses **50+ words** (names, actions, people)
- Starts putting **2 words together** (e.g., "more juice")
- Follows **simple directions** ("Get your shoes").
- Points to **familiar objects** in books



By 3 years

- Uses **3-4 word sentences** ("I want teddy")
- Speech is clear to **familiar adults** most of the time
- **Asks questions** like "What's that?"
- Plays pretend games and **talks during play**



By 4 years

- **Tells short stories** about recent events
- Speech is **clear to most people** (even strangers)
- Understands and uses **basic grammar** (plurals, past tense)
- Asks **lots of questions** "why" and "how" questions



Children all develop differently. Some may be early talkers, other take longer. What matters most is progress and interaction. If you're concerned about your child's speech or language, it's always okay to ask for advice.

