



Important Communication Milestones



Age	Communication Milestones
3 – 6 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Smiles spontaneously to human contact✓ Smiles when playing alone✓ Smiles at faces of several family members✓ Stops crying when spoken to✓ Shows different responses to different family members
6 – 9 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Responds to "Come here"✓ Becomes more outgoing with familiar people✓ Shows anxiety when separated from favorite caregiver✓ Likes to be with specific people
9 – 12 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Reacts to other's moods✓ Is fearful of strangers✓ Can tolerate momentary loss of contact with caregiver in unfamiliar places✓ Shows off to get attention
12 – 18 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Has an expressive vocabulary of between 5-20 words✓ Is aware of the value of communication✓ Follows simple directions, especially with gesture✓ Practices intonation, sometimes imitating an adult✓ Uses mostly nouns with a few others, such as "down" or "up"✓ Uses much, meaningful jargon with inflection and emotion
19 – 24 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Names common objects✓ Uses two or three more prepositions such as "on", "in", or "under"✓ Uses noun + Verb consistently✓ Family understands about 2/3 of what child says✓ Rhythm and fluency of speech is poor✓ Uses "I", "me", and "you", but may confuse "I" and "me"✓ Control of pitch and volume is poor✓ "My" and "mine" emerging (like a vengeance!)✓ Follows commands, such as "Show me your nose"





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25 – 36 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Uses "I", "you", and "me" correctly✓ Uses some plurals and past tenses✓ Knows principle body parts✓ Uses three-word sentences✓ Family understands about 90% of what child says✓ Verbs emerge quickly✓ Understands and responds to questions dealing with immediate environment✓ Tells about his experiences✓ Can answer thinking questions, such as "What do you want when you're thirsty?"✓ Gives name, age, and gender✓ Understands much more than he expresses
> 4 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Knows names of animals✓ Uses at least four prepositions✓ Knows some colors✓ Can repeat four digits when given slowly✓ Can repeat a four-syllable word✓ Knows contrasts such as "larger" and "longer"✓ Follows directions when desired object is not in sight✓ Repeats many words, phrases, syllables, and sounds✓ Loves make-believe and takes on multiple roles during play✓ Talks extensively during play by himself or with others

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