



LANGUAGE MILESTONES



BY AGE



Birth to 6 months

Infants are aware of language from birth, By 3 months, children recognize you voice and becomes quiet or smiles when you talk to them. By 6 months children respond to your tone and pay attention to music

6 months to 1 year

Children will turn when you call their name and understand common words (e.g. "no-no", "come here"). They begin to use gestures, such as waving, pointing, and shaking their head 'no'

1-2 years

At 18 months, children produce at least 20 true words. They follow simple 1-step directions and respond to simple questions (ex. "Where's daddy?"). By age two, children use at least 50 true words and begin combing two words into simple phrases (ex. "more milk". They begin to ask questions like "What's that?"

2-3 years

Between the ages of two to three, speech and language skills grow rapidly. Children understand more complex directions and understand new words quickly. By age 3, children use 1000 true words and speak in 3+ word phrases. Grammatical markers, such a pronouns, regular plurals and present progressive verbs

3-4 years

Between the ages of three to four, children begin to speak in longer, more complex sentences, Grammatical markers continue to develop, and the ability to rhyme emerges. At this age, children respond appropriately when asked, "What did you do today?". They are able to recognize absurdities, such as "Is there and elephant in your head?"

4-5 years

Children between the ages of four and five understand complex multi-step directions and concepts, such as time and space. They are able to understand questions such as "why do we brush our teeth?" and describe objects and how we do things. Children can maintain conversation by asking and responding to questions. They use language to discuss abstract concepts, such as what they are planning to do tomorrow and to use their imagination to create stories. Children at this age can generate rhyming words and able to follow directions of 3+ steps in length.