

Did you know?

- Most children understand much more than they have the ability to talk about
- Because all children develop at different rates, children will learn to speak at different times
- A child's ability to talk depends on things like:
 - who the child spends time with
 - the way the child understands things
 - how quickly the child's body has grown
 - the type of language the child hears at home

Inside this brochure you will find information about your child's speech from birth to age three

If you think there is a problem:

Remember, all children grow at different rates

There might be a problem if your child:

- does not make eye contact
- does not seem to understand or use any words by 18 months
- does not know ordinary household objects
- is unable to pay attention to a book or movie
- has difficulty learning simple nursery rhymes or songs

If you are concerned, ask your health care provider for advice

Baby Talk: WHAT KIDS SAY

Researched and Developed by members of



Volunteers of America®

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Baby Talk

WHAT KIDS SAY

A Guide to
Your Child's
Language
Development



MILESTONES

AS A PARENT: HELPING YOUR CHILD'S LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT



Birth - 6 months

- Makes pleasure sounds
- Looks at familiar person during play, looks away, and looks back again
- Repeats the same sounds
- Different cries mean different things
- Begins to smile
- Babbling begins to sound like real talk (4-6 months)
- Can gesture and make special sounds that tell you what she wants (4-6 months)

- Speak to your child - describe what you are doing, tell him about your day, point out objects that are in your house, etc.
- Sing songs to your child
- Read to your child every day
- Recite nursery rhymes

4 months - 1 year

- Begins to use words and non-crying sounds to get attention
- Imitates talking sounds
- Babbles with both long sounds and short sounds
- Makes gurgling sounds when left alone or playing with you

- Continue to read to your child every day
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Sing songs to your child
- Make sure to use language correctly when speaking to your child



1 - 2 years

- Learns more words each month
- Begins to put two or more words together in questions
- Starts to use two or more words together to make sentences
- Is able to use many consonant sounds to begin words
- Can say a few "real" words

- Continue to read aloud to your child
- Teach your child the songs that you sing and sing the songs together
- Listen attentively to your child
- Accept your child's speech irregularities

2 - 3 years

- Has a word for almost everything
- Can make short, 2-3 word sentences
- Is easily understood by familiar listeners
- Directs your attention to an object by naming it

- Continue to read aloud to your child everyday
- Sing songs with your child
- Listen to what your child has to say
- Help your child to expand on what he is saying
- Encourage pretend play