



11030-101 Raven Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27614

Phone: 919-844-6611

Typical Speech/Language Milestones

Speech therapy addresses the clarity and pronunciation skills of a child whereas language therapy targets a child's ability to understand what is said (receptive language) and formulate a purposeful message (expressive language).

Speech/language evaluation and treatment may address:

- Apraxia of Speech
- Articulation and Phonology
- Assistive Technology/Augmentative Communication
- Auditory Processing Disorders
- Expressive/Receptive Language
- Fluency or Stuttering
- Pragmatic/Social Skills
- Vocabulary Development
- Voice Quality/Disorders

Diagnoses that frequently warrant speech/language therapy include:

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Specific Language Impairment
- Cerebral Palsy
- Sensory Processing Disorder
- Down Syndrome
- Attention Deficit Disorders
- Developmental Delays/Disorders
- Cleft Lip/Palate
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Genetic Disorders

What should my child be able to communicate at different ages?

Birth to 3 months

- Makes pleasure sounds (cooing)
- Different types of cries
- Smiles to familiar faces
- Calms to familiar voices

4 to 6 Months

- Vocalizes excitement and displeasure
- Tries to "talk" with you
- Babbling contains more speech-like sounds (p, b, m)
- Laughs
- Tracks sounds with eyes

All Rights for Use Reserved by Abilities Children's Therapy & Wellness Center, Inc.

7 to 12 Months

- Responds to name
- Has 1 to 2 words (“mama”, “dada”, “hi”)
- Enjoys playing peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake
- Babbles long and short strings of sounds
- Uses gestures (waving, reaching arms up to be held)
- Responds to simple requests
- Listens to and imitates some sounds
- Recognizes words for common items
- Babbles with a variety of sounds

12 to 18 Months

- Has about 10-20+ words
- Imitates familiar words
- Understands more words than he/she says
- Omits some initial consonants & almost all final consonants
- Produces mostly unintelligible speech
- Follows simple commands
- Identifies 1-3 body parts
- Combines gestures with vocalizations

18 Months to 2 years

- Uses words more than jargon
- Expressive vocabulary of 50-100 words
- Receptive vocabulary of 300+ words
- Starts to combine words
- Begins to use pronouns
- Uses appropriate intonation for questions
- 25-50% intelligible to unfamiliar listeners
- Enjoys listening to stories
- Knows 5 body parts

2 to 3 years

- Has a word for almost everything
- Combines words in 2-3 words in sentences
- Speech is understood by familiar listeners
- Asks for objects by name
- Answers simple questions
- Follows 2 step requests
- 50-75% intelligible to unfamiliar listeners
- Points to pictures when named in books
- Asks 1-2 word questions
- Consistently uses initial consonants
- Frequently omits medial consonants

3 to 4 years

- Speaks in sentences with 4 or more words
- Usually speaks easily without repeating words
- Answers simple “who, what, where, why” questions
- People other than family usually understand speech
- Can tell a story

- Names at least one color
- Follows 2-3 step commands
- Frequently asks questions
- Conscious of past & future
- 80% intelligible to unfamiliar listeners
- Continues to improve grammar in sentences
- Engages in long conversations