

Questions about your child's talking?

Here is a checklist of communication skills: what your child is understanding and communicating by gestures and talking.. Remember not all children do the same things at the same ages. If your child is not doing some things on the list by the end of the age range, you may want to call 952-933-GROW (4769) for more information.

By 3 Months:

- Smiles at someone talking
- Startles to loud noises
- Looks at someone talking
- Watches face of adult who is talking to him/her
- Cries/Fusses to indicate needs

By 6 Months:

- Turns head toward source of sound
- Vocalizes a variety of sounds: coos, babbles, squeals and laughs
- Shows big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions, loves to be held close

By 9 Months:

- Shows big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions
- Babbles (e.g. bababa, dadada, mamama)
- Shares back and forth sounds, smiles and facial expressions
- Responds/Turns to name

By 12 Months:

- Babbles (e.g. bababa, dadada,aba da), plays with a variety of vowel-consonant sounds
- Says “dada”or ‘mama” meaningfully
- Uses back and forth gestures such as showing and reaching
- Baby shows many emotions such as happiness, sadness, discomfort, anger
- Waves bye-bye
- Shares back and forth sounds, smiles and facial expressions
- Points with index finger
- Responds /Turns to name
- Baby imitates sounds, actions, facial expressions of other adults

By 15 Months:

- Babbles (e.g. bababa, dadada, mamama)
- Uses one word in addition to “mama” and “dada”
- Tries to imitate new words
- Uses back and forth gestures such as showing and reaching
- Waves bye-bye

- Points with index finger
- Follows simple routine directions
- Points to familiar pictures in book on request

By 18 Months:

- Uses 10-20 words that are understood
- Looks at familiar objects when named
- Points to at least three body parts or clothing items
- Turns to adult for help when in trouble
- If you point at a toy across the room, your child will follow your point to look at it.

By 24 months:

- Uses 20-50 words
- Uses 2 word meaningful phrases without imitating or repeating
- Points to familiar pictures in books or request

By 30 Months:

- Uses 2 word meaningful phrases without imitating or repeating
- Follows new directions
- Child is beginning to understand others feelings and can identify when another child is angry or happy
- Asks simple questions (e.g. what's that?)

By 36 Months:

- Can be understood by unfamiliar adult more than half time
- Uses personal pronouns (e.g. me, my, mine)
- Talks about things past and present
- Imitates actions to songs and finger plays
- Follows directions with words like big and little
- Rote counts to 5
- Understands the concept of 2