













Download all toolkit images [here](#).

Age of Child	Copy	Image
<p>Birth to 3 Months</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: What to expect from birth to 3 months</p> <p>Caregivers may be concerned if there is a lack of sounds back and forth from the baby.</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Try self-talk. Talk about what you are seeing, doing, or hearing. You could say, for example, "I see a dog. The dog is black. The dog says "woof-woof"."</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment #babymilestones</p>	
<p>4 to 6 Months</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: Ages 4-6 months</p> <p>Is your little one giggling and responding to your funny faces? At this age, babies are discovering the joy of laughter and are starting to recognize familiar faces. They're also showing interest in toys that make sounds and can follow objects with their eyes.</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Play interactive games like peek-a-boo to keep those giggles coming! Remember to use their name often to help them learn and recognize it.</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment #babymilestones</p>	

<p>4 to 6 months</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: 4-6 Months</p> <p>Babies at this age vocalize more during play and enjoy toys that make sounds, like rattles and musical toys. They're also becoming experts at following objects with their eyes and responding to your facial expressions.</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Encourage their vocal exploration by mimicking their vowel sounds like “aaaa” or “oooo” and use their name often in conversations. "Wow, Emma! That's a big smile!"</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment #babymilestones</p>	 <p>A close-up photograph of a baby with dark hair, smiling and playing with several colorful toys, including a yellow ring rattle and a clear plastic rattle with colorful beads. The baby is wearing a white shirt. In the top left corner of the image, there is a circular logo for 'FIRST 5 Orange County Speech & Language Milestones'.</p>
<p>7 to 9 months</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: 7-9 Months</p> <p>Is your little one turning towards you when you call their name? At this age, babies recognize familiar faces and respond to their names. They start to understand simple commands like "No," and may even raise their arms when they want to be picked up.</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Encourage their babbling by repeating their sounds and connecting them to simple words, like "mamamama, mama" or "babababa, ball." Teach them to wave by modeling and using words like "bye-bye" and "hello."</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment #babymilestones</p>	 <p>A photograph of a woman with dark hair, smiling and holding a baby in her arms. They are outdoors on a grassy area. The woman is wearing a dark blue shirt and black pants. The baby is wearing a light-colored patterned shirt and pink pants. In the top left corner of the image, there is a circular logo for 'FIRST 5 Orange County Speech & Language Milestones'.</p>

<p>7 to 9 months</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: 7-9 Months</p> <p>Is your baby babbling up a storm with sounds like "mamamama" or "babababa"? They're exploring language and recognizing names of loved ones and objects. When upset, they look for familiar faces and might even raise their arms for cuddles.</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Help them learn to wave by waving yourself and using simple greetings like "bye-bye" and "hello." Repeat their sounds and connect them to everyday words to boost their language skills.</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment #babymilestones</p>	
<p>10 to 12 months</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: What to expect at 10-12 months</p> <p>Is your little one reaching for objects and pointing to show you what they want? They're exploring their world through gestures like waving and showing or giving objects to you. They love social games like peek-a-boo and might even try to imitate gestures like blowing kisses!</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Sing songs with your baby about daily activities to enhance their language skills and make routines fun! When they point, respond with words to encourage their communication, like "I see you want the toy? Let me get the toy for you."</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment #babymilestones</p>	

<p>10 to 12 months</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: 10-12 months</p> <p>Is your baby trying to copy the sounds you make and responding to simple words like "bye-bye" or "look at mommy"? They're beginning to say one or two words like "mama" or "dada."</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Encourage them by responding to their attempts to communicate and singing songs about daily activities. This helps them learn new words and enjoy playful interactions with you!</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment</p>	
<p>13 to 18 months</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: 13-18 months</p> <p>Is your toddler pointing to ask for things or commenting on what they see? They're exploring language by using words for common objects and understanding simple directions like "give me the ball". Plus, they know how to respond by nodding "yes" and shaking their head "no"!</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Repeat and expand on what they say. If they say "ba" for a ball, respond with "ball, yes, that's a ball!" Singing songs with gestures like "Wheels on the Bus" and "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" also makes learning fun and interactive!</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment</p>	

<p>13 to 18 months</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: 13-18 months</p> <p>Is your little one using gestures like clapping, high-fives, or sticking out their tongue when excited? They're exploring with a mix of sounds, syllables, and real words, expressing themselves more each day! They can identify body parts and understand simple questions like "where's your blanket?"</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Encourage their expressive language by responding enthusiastically and using words they understand. Sing songs with gestures, such as "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes," to reinforce learning and make playtime engaging!</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment</p>	
<p>19 to 24 months</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: 19-24 months</p> <p>Is your little one putting two or more words together like "more water" or "big truck"? They can understand over 50 words for things like food, toys, and body parts—even if their pronunciation is still developing, like saying "du" for shoe or "dah" for dog!</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Enhance their language skills by reading age-appropriate books together with enthusiasm! Build on what they say by adding more words and describing pictures. For example, if they point to a cat, say "Yes, that's a cat! Cats say meow!"</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment</p>	

19 to 24 months

Speech and Language Milestones: 19-24 months

Is your toddler using words to ask for help and to identify common objects and people in their lives? They can combine two or more words together to express themselves, like "more please" or "bye-bye Daddy."

Caregiver Tip: Support their language development by creating opportunities for conversation and exploration. Talk about what you see and do throughout the day, and respond to their attempts to communicate with enthusiasm and encouragement.

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2 to 3 years

Speech & Language Milestones: 2-3 years



Is your little one starting to use word combinations like "I want juice" or "baby sit down"? They're becoming more expressive and can answer questions about their actions. They may be curious and ask "why" and "how" about everything!

Caregiver Tip: Foster their language development through interactive play and storytelling! Play games like "Ready, Set, Go" to encourage following directions, and ask open-ended questions while reading books to stimulate their imagination and comprehension.

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<p>2 to 3 years</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: 2-3 years</p> <p>Is your toddler using –ing verbs like "eating" or "running" and adding –ed to talk about past actions, like "looked" or "played"? They're mastering plurals and using descriptive words to explain their needs, like asking for a coat when it's cold!</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Encourage speech clarity by using descriptive words during everyday conversations. Describe actions and objects using words like big/small, on/off, in/out, etc. This helps them understand and express themselves more clearly!</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment</p>	
<p>3 to 4 years</p>	<p>Speech & Language Milestones: 3-4 years</p> <p>Is your child comparing things using words like bigger or shorter, and using location words like inside, on, or under? They're exploring language and may be able to recognize signs like STOP and using articles like "a" and "the" in sentences!</p> <p>Caregiver Tip: Support their language development by engaging in meaningful conversations! Repeat what they say using more advanced language to model correct speech patterns. Encourage them to use words to express their feelings and solve problems.</p> <p>Each child develops uniquely and these milestones are not meant to be a screening or diagnostic tool. For more information and access to resources, visit first5oc.org/resources/parent-resources.</p> <p>#speechandlanguage #childdevelopment</p>	

3 to 4 years

Speech & Language Milestones: 3-4 years

Is your child telling stories from books or videos and pretending to write or spell?

Caregiver Tip: Foster their storytelling skills by reading together and encouraging them to pretend to write or draw. Answer their "why" questions to help them understand the world around them, and praise their efforts to communicate effectively.

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<p>ZERO TO THREE</p>	<p>ZERO TO THREE offers valuable resources for parents and caregivers to support early childhood development, making it a helpful guide for fostering language acquisition.</p> <p>This article outlines five tips to help babies develop language skills, such as using "parentese," responding to their gestures, making conversations interactive, narrating daily activities, and reading together. These strategies build communication skills from birth, enhancing cognitive and social-emotional growth.</p> <p>Read the full article here: https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/lets-talk-about-it-5-ways-to-build-babies-language-and-communication-skills-from-birth</p>	 <p>Did You Know?</p> <p>Research suggests a link between verbal intelligence and the number of words a baby hears in conversation in the first two years of life, so it's never too early to talk, sing, tell stories and read to babies.</p> <p>ZERO TO THREE</p>
<p>ZERO TO THREE</p>	<p>ZERO TO THREE offers valuable resources for parents and caregivers to support early childhood development, making it a helpful guide for fostering language acquisition.</p> <p>How do infants translate sounds into language? The article explains how infants learn to translate sounds into language by listening to speech patterns and gradually recognizing the meanings behind words. This process highlights the importance of early exposure to language-rich environments.</p> <p>Read the full article here: https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/how-do-infants-translate-sounds-to-language/</p>	 <p>FIRST 5 ORANGE COUNTY Speech & Language Milestones</p>