

Speech Milestones by Age — Quick Checklist

A practical printable for parents of children roughly 6 months to 5 years. Ranges are typical patterns, not diagnoses. Use this to notice progress and prepare questions for your pediatrician or speech-language pathologist.

6–12 months

- Makes cooing / vowel sounds; later babbles with consonants (ba, da, ma)
- Responds to own name most of the time
- Uses voice to get attention
- Looks toward interesting sounds
- Understands a few familiar words (e.g., no, bye)

12–18 months

- Says one or more clear words beyond mama/dada (often 1–10+)
- Points or gestures to show wants
- Follows simple one-step directions with cues
- Imitates sounds or words
- Looks at what you point to

18–24 months

- Vocabulary growing (often ~10–50+ words by ~18–24 months; ranges vary widely)
- Begins combining two words (more milk, go outside)
- Names familiar people or objects
- Understands simple questions and routine phrases
- Familiar adults understand much of what is said

2–3 years

- Uses short phrases / early sentences
- Asks simple what/where questions
- Uses I/me/you more often
- Follows two-step directions in familiar routines
- Familiar adults understand most speech

3–4 years

- Uses longer sentences and simple stories
- Understood by strangers most of the time
- Understands basic colors/shapes/concepts in play
- Uses past tense more often (may still make mistakes)
- Can answer simple why/how questions with support

4–5 years

- Tells a simple story with beginning/middle/end
- Speech is mostly clear to unfamiliar listeners
- Follows multi-step directions
- Asks when/why questions
- Grammar is mostly adult-like with occasional errors

Red flags — talk with a professional sooner if you notice

- No babbling by about 12 months
- No single words by about 16–18 months
- No two-word combinations by about 24 months
- Loss of words or communication skills at any age
- Does not respond to name consistently
- Frequent frustration when trying to communicate

Notes (what I noticed this week)

Important: This checklist is educational only. It does not diagnose speech or language disorders. If you are concerned, contact your pediatrician or a qualified speech-language pathologist. Early support can help.
More help: [momentures.com speech milestones hub](https://momentures.com/speech-milestones-hub) · [speech tracker](https://momentures.com/speech-tracker) · [Momentures](https://momentures.com)