



Voyages in Parenting

Helping you navigate the world of early childhood.

0-12 Month Language Development Milestone Checklist

All children develop at their own pace and there are many factors that could affect how a child develops. This checklist is based off of when the average number of children reach these milestones, as a result not all children will follow this checklist exactly.

By Two Months

- Startles or wakes at loud/sudden noises
- Self-regulation: calms when comforted
- Expressive language: expresses needs through different cries (ex. hungry, tired, needs a change)
- Social interest: studies faces, enjoys physical connection
- Receptive language: recognizes and responds to familiar voices
- Visual exploration: follows movement with eyes
- Expressive language: vocalizes a variety of sounds (coos, gurgles)

By Four Months

- Social interest: smiles at familiar adults
- Social interest: observing others
- Visual exploration: tracking moving objects/people with eyes
- Auditory exploration: making sounds when looking at toys or people
- Auditory: responding to familiar sounds, especially voices
- Imitation: imitating adult behaviour and actions, smiles when you smile
- Expressive language: responds to you with movement and making sounds

By Six Months

- Receptive language: responds to own name
- Social interest/ Expressive language: smiling and vocalizing when given adult attention
- Receptive language: responding to familiar words or named objects
- Receptive/Expressive language: responding to human voices by vocalizing
- Expression of emotion/ Expressive language: vocalizing pleasure and displeasure
- Auditory: responding and turning toward new sounds
- Auditory exploration: notice some toys make sounds

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By Nine Months

- Imitation: imitating facial expressions
- Auditory: turning to look for source of sounds
- Receptive language: understanding short simple instructions (ex. "wave bye", "don't touch")
- Expressive language: babbling with a wide variety of sounds
- Expressive language: signaling using sounds and gestures to initiate social contact
- Communication skills: plays simple turn taking games such as peek-a-boo
- Intentional communication: reaching to be picked up and held

By Twelve Months

- Imitation: imitating actions and sounds
- Receptive language: responds to own name being called by looking at the person speaking
- Receptive language: understanding and responding to simple verbal requests and questions (ex. "come here", "where is your shoe?")
- Receptive language: recognizing named objects and responding by pointing
- Expressive language: vocalizing as though talking by combining sounds together
- Vocabulary: beginning to repeat overheard words
- Vocabulary: consistently using three or more words*
- Expressive language: uses body language, gestures, sounds or words to express needs
- Communication skills: enjoys simple turn-taking games and back-and-forth vocal play




*words do not have to be clear, sign language counts, animal sounds such as "moo" for a cow also counts as a word

If there are more than two milestones for your child's age that they haven't mastered then you may want to speak to your family doctor to check in. Delays are common and can occur for a variety of reasons. Feel free to contact us at Voyages in Parenting for a developmental screening for your child.



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