

Sequence of Development for Infants and Toddlers: Auditory, Language, and Speech

Approx. Age	Auditory Development	Language Development	Speech Development
0-28 days	Startles; attends to music/voice, soothed by parent's voice; may synchronize body movements to speech patterns; enjoys time "enface" position; hears caregiver before being picked up.		
1-3 months	Looks for sound source; associates sound with movement; enjoys parent's voice; attends to noise makers; imitates vowel sounds.	Startles to loud sounds; smiles when spoken to; seems to recognize parent voice and quiets if crying; increases or decreases sucking in response to sound.	Makes pleasure sounds (cooing, gooing); cries differently for different needs. Smiles when sees known caregiver.
4-7 months	Uses toys/objects to make sounds; plays with noise makers; pays attention to music; enjoys rhythm games; responds to changes in tone of caregiver voice; notices toys that make sound; moves eyes in direction of sounds.	Recognizes some words; responds to verbal commands (bye-bye); learning to recognize name.	Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including p, b, and m. Vocalizes excitement and displeasure; makes gurgling sounds when left alone and when playing with caregiver.
8-12 months	Attends to TV; localizes to sounds/voices; enjoys rhymes and songs; enjoys hiding game; responds to vocal games (e.g., So Big!!, Peek-a-boo).	Recognizes words for common items like "cup," "shoe," "juice." Begins to respond to requests. Understands NO.	Babbling has both long and short groups of sounds such as "tata upup bibibibi." Uses non-crying sounds to get and keep attention. Imitates different speech sounds. Has 1 or 2 words (no, dada, mama) although they may not be clear.
1-2 years	Dances to music; sees parent answer telephone/doorbell; answers to name call; listens to simple stories, songs, and rhymes.	Points to pictures in a book when named; points to a few body parts when asked; follows simple commands and understands simple questions ("Roll the ball").	Says more words every month. Uses some 1-2 word questions ("Where kitty?"). Puts 2 words together ("More cookie"). Uses many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words.
2-3 years	Listens on telephone; dances to music; listens to story in a group; goes with parent to answer door; awakens to smoke detector.	Understands differences in meaning ("go/stop," "up/down"). Follows two requests ("Get the book and put it on the table"). Attends to travel activities and communication.	Has a word for almost everything. Uses 2-3 word "sentences" to talk about and ask for things. Speech is understood by familiar listeners most of the time. Often asks for or directs attention to objects by naming them.

Adapted from: [Ear Infections and Language Development, www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html](http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edpubs.html) and [Developmental Index of Auditory and Listening \(DIAL\), www.edaud.org](http://www.edaud.org)