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Receptive and Expressive Language Milestones

Age	Receptive Language	Expressive Language
9-12 month developmental level	☐ Responds to "come here" ☐ Searches for hidden/dropped item ☐ Understands simple command with gestures ☐ Looks at correct pictures in book when named ☐ Responds to own name ☐ Follows simple commands with body (wave, clap) ☐ Gives item when asked ☐ Responds to simple questions with searching movements (e.g.. looks around when you ask, "Where's Dada?")	☐ Says a few words around 1 yr ☐ Tries to imitate words/repeats sounds ☐ Uses simple gestures "clap" or "no" ☐ Responds to being spoken to by making sounds ☐ Enjoys playing games like "peek-aboo" and listening to songs ☐ Babbles or makes sounds with changes in pitch/tone Says first word ("Mama", "Dada") ☐ Looks toward an item they want Imitates functional play ☐ Shouts or coughs to gain attention ☐ Points/reaches to what they want ☐ Waves hi/bye

12-18 months	- Follows one-step commands like, "go get the ball" - Points to wanted/recognized object - Identifies 1-3 body parts - Identify 2 or more objects in book - Demonstrates functional play (using more than one toy appropriately.) - Copies simple pretend play (feed the baby) - Follows one-step verbal commands without gestures (sit down)	- Imitates a word - Jargon (sentence like intonation) - Vocalizes with gestures - Answers basic "what" questions - Protests by saying no/shake head - Names a few animal sounds - Says between 10-50 words by 18 months - Points to show items
18-24 months	- Follows commands with spatial concepts, "put it IN the box" - Responds to yes/no questions - Understands verbs (eat, sleep - Follows commands w/out gestures (you only say the command) - Listens to simple stories during reading time - Points to named items - Imitates others' behaviors and gestures	- Says between 10 words at 18 months - 300 words at 24 months - Starts to combine 2 words together - Names familiar objects - Says own name - Asks, "what's that"? - Imitates words more frequently and clearly - Starts to answer basic questions verbally

24-30 months	❏ Listens to a 5 minute story ❏ Follows 2 step related commands ❏ Identifies actions in pictures ❏ Understands pronouns "I" & "You" ❏ Understands quantity words like "one" and "all" ❏ Consistently points to named objects in a book	❏ Uses between 50 words (minimum at 24 months) to 500 words around 30 months ❏ Starts using plurals & -ing verbs ❏ Uses a few pronouns ("my" or "I") ❏ Combines 2-3 words together ❏ Answers what and where ?'s ❏ Begins to ask what/where ?'s
30-36 months	❏ Listens to a 10-15 minute story ❏ Follows 2-3 step commands ❏ Understand adjectives "big"/"little" ❏ Understands many pronouns ❏ Points to 10 objects described by use ("Point to the one you can EAT.")	❏ Uses between 250 words to 1000 words around 36 months ❏ Uses past tense -ed verbs (walked) ❏ Uses a variety of pronouns ❏ Combines 3+ words together ❏ Consistently answers wh- ?'s ❏ Consistently asks wh- ?'s ❏ Verbally expresses emotions ❏ Names most familiar things & people ❏ Can hold a basic conversation by 36 months

| 36-48 developmental level | ❏ Understands more pronouns- *he, she, it, his, him, her, we, they, us, their, its, ours*
❏ Follows 3-step directions without gestures
❏ Understands negation
❏ Understands more complex prepositions - *in front, behind, next to, over*
❏ Begins to comprehend *when, why, how* questions
❏ Understands time words- *when, before, after*
❏ Understands *same* and *different*
❏ Understands several quantity concepts - *one, some, rest, all, more, most*
❏ Makes inferences and comprehends verbal reasoning
❏ Ground objects and pictures by category
❏ Understands analogies
❏ Understands emotions and physical state words
❏ Receptively identifies all basic colors
❏ Understands names for basic shapes | ❏ Speaks in 4-5 word sentences in conversation
❏ Names a variety of pictures
❏ Tells how an object is used
❏ Uses articles
❏ Uses quantitative concepts
❏ Uses possessives
❏ Uses more pronouns
❏ Uses more verb forms
❏ Complete analogies
❏ Describes items and differentiates by color, size, shape, and objects
❏ Describes what's going on in picture sequence cards
❏ Answers a variety of logical questions including: what happened, why, when, and how
❏ Makes inferences- answers questions about hypothetical events - *what would you do if…*
❏ Uses conjunctions to join ideas in more complex sentences (and, if, so, but)
❏ Expressive vocabulary of at least 1000 words

❏ |

48-60 months	❏ Understands words for order, like *first*, *next*, and *last*. ❏ Understands words for time, like *yesterday*, *today*, and *tomorrow*. ❏ Follows classroom directions, like "Draw a circle on your paper around something you eat." ❏ Hears and understands most of what she hears at home and in school.	❏ Responds to "What did you say?" ❏ Talks without repeating sounds or words most of the time. ❏ Names letters and numbers. ❏ Uses sentences that have more than 1 action word, like *jump*, *play*, and *get*. May make some mistakes, like "Zach gots 2 video games, but I got one." ❏ Tells a short story. ❏ Keeps a conversation going. ❏ Talks in different ways, depending on the listener and place. Your child may use short sentences with younger children. He may talk louder outside than inside.