

Early Speech and Language Development Chart

Name

Date of birth

Stage and age	Attention and listening	Understanding of language	Speech Sounds And Talk	Social skills and use of language
0-11 months The Early Communicator	- Turns towards a familiar sound - Startled by loud sounds - Watches face when someone talks	- Recognises parent's voice - Understands frequently used words such as "all gone", "no", "bye-bye" - Stops and looks when hears own name	- Communicates in a variety of ways - gurgling, crying, babbling - Plays with speech sounds (bababa) > 10	- Reaches out and points - Makes vocal sounds to get attention - Tries to copy adult speech and lip movement - Takes turns in conversations using babble - Senses different emotions in carers voice and responds differently (quietening, laughing, smiling etc) > 12
8-20 months First Word User	- Locates source of voice with accuracy - Pays attention to dominant stimulus - Enjoys music and singing - Concentrates intently on an object or activity of own choosing, for increasing periods of time. > 20	- Gives named objects to adult (book,apple,car) - Understands simple instructions ("kiss Mummy", "where's your nose", "stop") - Recognises and points to objects, or pictures in books if asked > 18	- Babbling in strings of connected but different sounds ba-ba-no-no-go-go - Reaches out or points to objects while making speech sounds - Uses around 10 single words although they may not be clear > 20	- Uses gestures such as waving and pointing with eye gaze to make requests and share interests - Plays alone but likes to be near familiar adult - Responds to words and interactive rhymes such as "clap hands" - Uses simple pretend play e.g. feeding teddy > 20
16-27 months Combiner	- Responds to an adult talking and briefly shifts attention from something they are doing to the speaker - Recognises and responds appropriately to many familiar sounds e.g. a knock on the door	- Understands 200-500 single words - Understands simple instructions, containing 2 key words without clues > 24	- Uses up to 50 words - Begins to combine two or three simple words > 36 - Begins to ask simple questions ("where's my drink?") - Can be understood by familiar adult > 36	- Pretend play developing with toys (feeding a doll or talking on telephone) - Follow adult body language including pointing, gesture and facial expression
22-36 months Early sentence user	- Listens with interest to the noises adults make when they read stories - Single channelled attention, can shift to a different task if attention is first gained by adult > 36	- Understands who, what, where questions (but not why) - Identifies action words by pointing to the right picture e.g. "who's jumping" - Demonstrates understanding of the language linked to early concepts including 'in/on/under', 'big/little' > 36	- Uses a wide range of words including descriptive language, time, space and function/action - Links 4-5 words together - Able to use pronouns (me, him, she) - Able to use prepositions (in on under) - Starting to use word endings ('ing', 's') - Can be mostly understood by strangers > 48	- Can take several turns in a conversation but jumps from topic to topic - Expresses emotion to adults and peers using words not just actions - Has some favourite stories, songs and rhymes - Uses language to share ideas and experiences - Interested in others play and will join in > 36
30-50 months Later sentence user	- Enjoys listening to stories - Can shift attention between listening to others and doing own activity without adult prompt. Anticipates and joins in with familiar actions and phrases in rhymes and stories	- Understands use of objects ("what do we use to cut things?") - Shows understanding of prepositions (behind, in front) - Aware of time in terms of today, yesterday, tomorrow	- Uses talk to connect ideas and explain what is happening - Asks lots of why questions - Can retell a simple past event in correct order - Using more complex sentences > 48	- Understands turn-taking as well as sharing with adults and peers - Initiates conversations - Enjoys playing with peers - Able to argue with adults or peers if they disagree – uses words not just actions
40 -60 months Skilled Communicator	- Sustains attentive listening, responding to what they have heard with comments, questions or actions - Maintains attention, concentrates and sits quietly when appropriate - Two channelled attention- can listen and do at the same time	- Able to follow a simple story without pictures - Understands questions containing sequencing words (what did you do after tea?) > 60 - Understands and enjoys rhyme - Laughs at simple jokes - Understands adjectives (soft, hard etc) - Demonstrates understanding of how and why questions by giving explanations > 72	- Easily understood by adults and peers - Mostly uses well formed sentences - Uses complex linking words appropriately, ('and', 'then', 'because')	- Chooses own friends - Generally co operative with playmates - Able to plan construction and make believe play activities - Takes longer turns in conversations - Maintains theme/topic of conversation - Uses language to organise sequence and clarify thinking - Introduces a storyline to their play

Confidence:

Whole group ☺ ☹ ☹ Small group ☺ ☹ ☹ Key person/familiar group ☺ ☹ ☹ One to one ☺ ☹ ☹ One to one (unfamiliar) ☺ ☹ ☹ At home ☺ ☹ ☹

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Shropshire Community
Health NHS Trust
Children's and Specialist Services
SLT Pre-school referral Form/SLT/Masters/referral forms/Review January 2011



