

# PRE-SCHOOL LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

## Early Detection is Vital

Babies learn to talk by listening to voices and sounds – and babies develop at different rates. It is often hard to detect if your infant or toddler has a speech or language problem. Trust your instincts. If you suspect a problem, talk to your family doctor or see a Speech-Language Pathologist.



### up to 3 months

- Makes lots of noises (coos and gurgles)
- Reacts to loud noises or new sounds
- Is soothed by calm gentle voices

### 6 months

- Watches your face and makes noises when you talk
- Coos and squeals for attention
- Cries differently when hungry

### 12 months

- Understands name and other common words when used with gestures like ‘bye-bye’
- Says sounds like ba-ba, na-na, or ma-ma
- Sings along, laughs, imitates others

### 18 months

- Understands simple questions like “Where is your nose?”
- Makes gestures or asks for ‘more’ or ‘again’
- Babbles, sounding like sentences

### 2 years

- Uses two-word sentences like ‘What’s that?’
- Understands more words than he/she can say
- Understands simple directions like “Get your coat.”

### 2-3 years

- Asks questions and uses short sentences
- Uses 200 words or more
- Listens to stories and answers simple questions

Milestones for Development: The Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.  
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