

Early Communication Milestones

At 12 Months

Children can usually...

- UNDERSTANDING**
- understand about 10 words
 - recognise gestures (e.g. hello and goodbye)
 - recognise familiar people and objects (e.g. mummy, blankie and teddy)



- SPEAKING**
- use sounds, gestures, and a few words
 - make eye contact
 - copy sounds and noises

At 15 Months

Children can usually...

- UNDERSTANDING**
- understand 50 words
 - follow simple instructions (e.g. "throw the ball")
 - point to familiar objects when named



- SPEAKING**
- say 6 - 20 single words
 - use objects in pretend play (e.g. hold toy phone and say "hello?")
 - use gestures (e.g. shaking head for no)

At 2 Years

Children can usually...

- UNDERSTANDING**
- follow simple two part instructions (e.g. "give me the ball and the car")
 - respond to Wh-questions (e.g. "what is it?/where is it?")
 - understand prepositions (e.g. in, on, under)

- SPEAKING**
- say more than 50 words including "mine", "my" and "no"
 - put two words together (e.g. "bye teddy")
 - use most vowel sounds and a variety of consonants sounds (m, n, p, k, g, h, w, t, d)

At 3 Years

Children can usually...

- UNDERSTANDING**
- follow complex two part instructions (e.g. "give me the teddy and throw the ball")
 - have knowledge of different colours
 - understand the concepts of 'same' and 'different'
 - sort items into groups (e.g. toys vs food)

- SPEAKING**
- use four to five words in a sentence to have a short conversation
 - use a variety of words to describe names, actions and locations
 - ask question using 'what', 'where' and 'who'
 - talk about something in the past, but may use '-ed' a lot (e.g. "he goed there")

At 4 Years

Children can usually...

- UNDERSTANDING**
- answer Wh-questions relating to a story they have heard
 - understand some numbers
 - show awareness that some words start and finish with the same sounds

- SPEAKING**
- use "and", "but" and "because" to make longer sentences
 - describe recent events using personal pronouns (e.g. he/she, me/you)
 - count to five



At 5 Years

Children can usually...

- UNDERSTANDING**
- follow three part instructions (e.g. put on your shoes, get your bag and line up)
 - understand time related words (e.g. "before", "after", "now" and "later")
 - recognise letters and sounds

- SPEAKING**
- take turns in increasingly long conversations
 - tell stories with a beginning, middle and end
 - use past and future verbs correctly (e.g. "went", "will")
 - use most speech sounds except 's', 'r', 'l' and 'th'