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| **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 channeled 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 favorite 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 channeled 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 |

**Early Speech and Language Development Chart Name Date of birth**

60

12

36

20

48

48

36

12

60

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

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