



## Typical Speech and Language Development

All children develop speech and language skills at different times. However, as speech language pathologists, we become concerned when children are falling significantly below their age level for either understanding, talking or play skills. Here are a few guidelines you can use to see if your child is developing speech and language skills as expected.

Hearing & Understanding	Talking and Play Skills
<p><b>7 months- 1 year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turns and looks in the direction of sounds</li> <li>• Listens when spoken to</li> <li>• Recognizes words for common items like “cup”, “shoe”, “juice”</li> <li>• Responds to name</li> <li>• Begins to respond to simple requests (“come here”, “want more”)</li> <li>• Smiles at when smiled at and can follow eye gaze</li> </ul>	<p><b>7 months- 1 year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babbling with both long and short groups of sounds “tata upup bibibibib”</li> <li>• Uses speech or non-crying sounds to get and keep attention</li> <li>• Imitates different speech sounds</li> <li>• Has 1 or 2 words (bye-bye, dad, mama)</li> <li>• Enjoys games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake</li> <li>• Joint attention</li> <li>• Reacts to emotions</li> </ul>
<p><b>1-2 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Points to a few body parts</li> <li>• Follows 1-2 step directions and understands simple questions (“roll the ball”, “kiss the baby”, “go get your shoes”)</li> <li>• Listens to simple stories, songs, and rhymes</li> <li>• Identifies an object in a picture book</li> <li>• Points to pictures in a book when named</li> <li>• Points to a few body parts when asked</li> </ul>	<p><b>1-2 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Says more words every month</li> <li>• Uses some 1-2 word questions (where kitty? go bye-bye?)</li> <li>• Puts 2 words together (more cookie, no juice, mommy book)</li> <li>• Uses many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words</li> <li>• Points to objects to get others engaged (joint attention)</li> <li>• Plays near other children, begins to imitate</li> <li>• Greets others, takes turns</li> <li>• Brings objects to adult, requests action with words/ gestures</li> </ul>
<p><b>2-3 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hears when you call from another room</li> <li>• Answers simple “who?”, “what?”, “where?”, “why?” questions</li> <li>• Follows 2-3 step directions</li> <li>• Understands concepts “inside”, “under”, “on top”</li> <li>• Points to 5-6 parts of a doll when asked</li> </ul>	<p><b>2-3 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has a word for almost everything (50-200 words)</li> <li>• Uses 2-3 words to talk about and ask for things</li> <li>• Speech is understood by familiar listeners most of the time</li> <li>• Often asks for or directs attention to objects by naming them</li> <li>• Acts out simple themes from own experience</li> <li>• Talks to self during play</li> </ul>
<p><b>3-4 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understands differences in meaning (“go-stop”, “in-on”, “big-little”, “up-down”)</li> <li>• Follows 2 requests (“Get the book and put it on the table”)</li> <li>• Understands action words (“jump, run, wash”) and descriptive words (“big, wet, little”)</li> <li>• Matches objects to pictures</li> </ul>	<p><b>3-4 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talks about activities completed earlier from school or home</li> <li>• People outside the family understand the child’s speech</li> <li>• Uses a lot of sentences that have 4 or more words</li> <li>• Usually talks easily without repeating syllables or words</li> <li>• Cooperative play begins</li> <li>• Begins to share and show empathy and emotions</li> <li>• Able to maintain a topic</li> </ul>
<p><b>4-5 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pays attention to short stories and answers simple questions</li> <li>• Hears and understands most of what is said in school</li> <li>• Understands spatial concepts (under, in back of, in front of)</li> <li>• Makes inferences from pictures and stories</li> <li>• Understands and can produce rhyming words</li> <li>• Can clap out multi-syllable words</li> </ul>	<p><b>4-5 years</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Says most sounds correctly except l, s, r, v, z, j, ch, sh, th.</li> <li>• Uses the same grammar as the rest of the family</li> <li>• Uses sentences that give lots of details (I like to read by books)</li> <li>• Tells stories that stick to topic</li> <li>• Communicates easily with other children and adults</li> <li>• Understand that other people have thoughts</li> </ul>

### When is Therapy Needed?

If your child is not reaching these milestones or if you have concerns regarding any of these milestones, please contact our office and set up an appointment with one of our licensed speech-language pathologists. During the evaluation, the therapist will play with your child and talk to you about what your child is doing at home. We will only recommend therapy if we feel your child is significantly below their peers in at least one area.

### How Does Therapy Work?

Therapy is done on a one-on-one setting with you involved. We bring in motivating play activities designed to encourage your children to communicate and teach them and you ways to encourage communication at home. Parents and caregivers are the key to success in achieving our short-term and long-term goals

For further questions, call **Communication Works** at 510-639-2929.  
To schedule an appointment, complete an application at [www.cwtherapy.com](http://www.cwtherapy.com)