

Speech & Language Milestones

Birth – 1 year

- **Birth – 3 months:**
 - Vocalizes to gain attention
 - Plays with rattle
- **3-6 months**
 - Smiles at familiar people.
 - Participates in vocal turn-taking
 - Laughs
 - Reaches for objects
 - Bangs objects together
 - Responds to their name
 - Babbles
 - Joint attention: shifts gaze between object and adult.
- **6-9 months**
 - Responds to requests (“come here”, “want up?”)
 - Uses a few gestures (gives high fives, knuckles, reaches up, waves hi/by)
 - Participates in games and songs with adults using gestures and vocalizing.
- **9-12 months**
 - Points to objects
 - Resists removal of a toy
 - Says “mama” and/or “dada”
 - Imitates sounds (moo, beep-beep)
 - Plays with toys purposefully
 - Begins to understand questions (“where’s mom”) and directions (“give me ___”)
 - Points to 2 body parts

What to do:

If under 3, you can and are encouraged to inquire about early intervention services in your area (SoonerStart).

Contact pediatrician to discuss milestones and referral to a Speech-Language Pathologist for a comprehensive evaluation.

Ensure your child has a hearing test, as hearing loss can impact speech and language development. Ear infections and non-infected fluid build up in the ear should also be considered.

Encourage communication at home through interactive play, reading together, and using gestures and signs if verbal skills are limited.