

Will I Grow Out of It?

Milestones and Warning Signs for Speech and Language Development Birth to 2 Years

<p>First 3 months of life</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Warning signs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reacts to loud noises • Is soothed by calm, gentle voices • Likes to cuddle and enjoys being held • Cries, gurgles, grunts, says “ah” • Able to suck well when nursing • Your child shows no reaction to sound • Your child doesn’t nurse well
<p>4 months to 6 months</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Warning signs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watches your face with interest when you talk • Makes sounds as if “talking” to you • Enjoys making sounds with you, smiles at you • Coos and squeals for attention • Has a special cry when hungry • Your child is very quiet • Any of the above behaviors are absent
<p>6 months to 1st birthday</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Warning signs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands some common words and gestures e.g. “bye, bye”, “up”, “give me” and own name • Tries to say sounds and words – “ba, ba”, “na, na” • Tries to sing when hearing music • Laughs and may copy a cough • Your child does not babble and does not try to talk • Your child had ear infections
<p>Age 1 to 18 months</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Warning signs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babbles – sounds like sentences • Understands simple questions and directions e.g. “where is your nose?”, “give me” • Says words (not clearly) • Nods “yes” and shakes head for “no” • Enjoys rhythm and likes to “dance” to music • Likes to look at books with you • Your child uses less than 10 words • Your child doesn’t like to be with people

**18 months to 2nd
birthday**

- Says some 2-word sentences such as “more milk, “all gone”, “me go”
- Asks for a cookie or toy
- Says “what’s that” a lot
- Understands “where is mommy/daddy?”
- Understands simple directions “get your coat”
- Understands more words than can say
- Responds to own name

Warning signs

- Your child uses more gestures than words
- Your child doesn’t understand what you say

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Milestones and Warning Signs for Speech and Language Development 2 years to 5 years

<p>Age 2 to 3rd birthday</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">Warning signs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually uses words in 2-3 word sentences such as “me do it” • Follows 2-step directions, e.g. “put the teddy-bear to bed and come here” • Answers simple questions, e.g. “what’s your name?”, “which one is the big doll?” • Can put a toy “in”, “on”, “under” when asked • Knows how to play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child gets frustrated when trying to talk • You have difficulty understanding what your child says • Your child doesn’t use 2-3 word sentences
<p>Age 3 to 4th birthday</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">Warning signs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-step directions, e.g. “get your shoes and coat and wait by the door” • Tells first and last name • Likes to talk about books, pictures • Tells a short story e.g. “two kids played ball” • Sentences are usually 3 and 4 words long • Gives directions such as “Fix this for me” • Asks many questions: “what”, “where”, “why” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have trouble understanding what your child says • Your child doesn’t use complete sentences
<p>Age 4 to 5th birthday</p> <p style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">Warning signs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands rules to simple games e.g. “Go Fish” cards game, “Hide and Seek” • Most people understand what your child says • Can have conversations with people • Plays well with other children <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your child doesn’t use complete sentences • Your child stutters • People have trouble understanding what your child says • Your child doesn’t seem to follow directions

	<p>Early detection of difficulties at any age can make learning to talk easier. If your child shows any of the warning signs listed for his or her age group, please contact your Speech Language Pathologist or Public Health Nurse in your local district health office for more information.</p>
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