

Normal Language Development

Birth to 6 months

- first form of communication is crying
- babies also make sounds of comfort such as coos, and gurgles
- Babbling soon follows as a form of communication
- vowel sounds are produced
- no meaning is attached to the words heard from others

6 to 12 months

- the babies voice begins to rise and fall while making sounds
- child begins to understand certain words
- may respond appropriately to the word “no” or own name
- child may perform an action when asked
- child may repeat words said by others

12 to 18 months

- child has learned to say several words with appropriate meaning
- child is able to tell what he/she wants by pointing
- child responds to simple commands

18 to 24 months

- great spurt in the acquisition and use of speech at this stage
- child begins to combine words
- child begins to form words into short sentences

2 to 3 years

- at this age the child talks
- they will ask questions
- child has vocabulary of about 900 words
- child participates in conversation
- child can identify colors
- child can use plurals
- child can tell simple stories
- child begins to use some consonant sounds

3 to 4 years

- child begins to speak more rapidly
- child begins to ask questions to obtain information
- sentences are longer and more varied
- can complete simple analogies

4 to 5 years

- average vocabulary of over 1500 words
- sentences average 5 words in length
- able to modify speech
- child is able to define words
- child can use conjunctions
- child can recite poems and sing songs from memory