SPEECH & LANGUAGE
DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

BIRTH ➔ 6 MONTHS
• Startles at loud sounds and notices toys that make sounds
• Cries for change in different needs
• Demonstrates cooing/babbling
• Moves eyes in direction of sounds
• Responds to changes in your tone of voice
• Smiles and laughs

6 MONTHS ➔ 1 YEAR
• Begins to imitate gestures (bye-bye, reaching for up, shaking head no)
• Looks when you point to something and responds to facial expressions
• Uses some words (mama, da-da, hi) by one year
• Increasing understanding of daily routines
• Continues to babble long strings of sounds during play
• Plays games such as peek-a-boo, pattycake or dropping toys from high chair

1 YEAR ➔ 18 MONTHS
• Receptive Language
  • Understands names of familiar objects and people
  • Understands action words and simple directions (come here)
  • Begins to show simple body parts on request
  • Responds to name
• Expressive Language
  • Uses 10–14 words
  • Uses words and gestures (pointing) to request
• Articulation
  • Uses many vowels and a variety of consonant sounds (b, t, d, m, n, h, w)
  • Combines consonants and vowels into one- and two-syllable sequences (doggie, baby, mommy)
• Play
  • Uses objects appropriately (rolls toy car, throws ball)
18 MONTHS → 2 YEARS

- **Receptive Language**
  - Follows simple commands (get shoes)
  - Retrieves objects upon request
  - Increase in understanding of vocabulary

- **Expressive Language**
  - Experiencing a burst of language (new words every day)
  - Uses 200 words by age two
  - Uses words to request, protest, label, respond and socialize

- **Articulation**
  - By age two, is using sounds: p, b, m, n, t, d, h, w

- **Play**
  - Manipulates mechanical toys (dump truck, busy box)
  - Initiates housework or other adult activities

2 YEARS → 3 YEARS

- **Receptive Language**
  - Understands 1200 words (approximately)
  - Follows simple one- and two-step related directions (get the napkin, throw it away)
  - Answers “what” and “where” questions by pointing or using words

- **Expressive Language**
  - Has a word for almost everything
  - Uses words like in, on and under
  - Combines words into two- and three-word phrases (more milk, help me please)

- **Articulation**
  - Speech is more clear and 50 to 80% intelligible by age three
  - By age three is using sounds: p, b, m, n, t, d, h, w, y, k, g, f

- **Play**
  - Engages in pretend play with objects (feeds doll a bottle)
  - Pretends to be another person (plays “mommy” or “doctor”)