

# Multiple Talking

## Speech and Language Milestone Chart

Ref: Learning Disabilities Association of America (1999) website:  
<http://www.ldonline.org/article/6313>

Parents are sometimes concerned about their child's speech and language development, or 'lack of' development, especially when there is an older sibling who "was quick to speak". Here are some brief details about 'what to expect' with your children in those early years. Stick it to your fridge if you have children younger than school age and tick off the behaviours as you see/hear them!

### Between one and two

#### Milestones

- Understands "no"
- Uses 10 to 20 words, including names
- Combines two words such as "daddy bye-bye"
- Waves good-bye and plays pat-a-cake
- Makes the "sounds" of familiar animals
- Gives a toy when asked
- Uses words such as "more" to make wants known
- Points to his or her toes, eyes, and nose
- Brings object from another room when asked

#### *Activities to encourage your child's language*

- Reward and encourage early efforts at saying new words
- Talk to your baby about everything you're doing while you're with him
- Talk simply, clearly, and slowly to your child
- Talk about new situations before you go, while you're there, and again when you are home
- Look at your child when he or she talks to you
- Describe what your child is doing, feeling, hearing
- Let your child listen to children's records and tapes
- Praise your child's efforts to communicate

### Between two and three

#### Milestones

- Identifies body parts

- Carries on 'conversation' with self and dolls
- Asks "what's that?" And "where's my?"
- Uses 2-word negative phrases such as "no want".
- Forms some plurals by adding "s"; book, books
- Has a 450 word vocabulary
- Gives first name, holds up fingers to tell age
- Combines nouns and verbs "mommy go"
- Understands simple time concepts: "last night", "tomorrow"
- Refers to self as "me" rather than by name
- Tries to get adult attention: "watch me"
- Likes to hear same story repeated
- May say "no" when means "yes"
- Talks to other children as well as adults
- Solves problems by talking instead of hitting or crying
- Answers "where" questions
- Names common pictures and things
- Uses short sentences like "me want more" or "me want biscuit"
- Matches 3-4 colors, knows big and little

### *Activities to encourage your child's language*

- Repeat new words over and over
- Help your child listen and follow instructions by playing games: "pick up the ball," "Touch Daddy's nose"
- Take your child on trips and talk about what you see before, during and after the trip
- Let your child tell you answers to simple questions
- Read books every day, perhaps as part of the bedtime routine
- Listen attentively as your child talks to you
- Describe what you are doing, planning, thinking
- Have the child deliver simple messages for you (Mommy needs you, Daddy )
- Carry on conversations with the child, preferably when the two of you have some quiet time together
- Ask questions to get your child to think and talk
- Show the child you understand what he or she says by answering, smiling, and nodding your head
- Expand what the child says. If he or she says, "more juice," you say, "Adam wants more juice."

## Milestones

- Can tell a story
- Has a sentence length of 4-5 words
- Has a vocabulary of nearly 1000 words
- Names at least one color
- Understands "yesterday," "summer" (seasons), "lunchtime", "tonight", "little-big"
- Begins to follow requests like "put the block under the chair"
- Knows his or her last name, name of street on which he/she lives and several nursery rhymes

### *Activities to encourage your child's language*

- Talk about how objects are the same or different
- Help your child to tell stories using books and pictures
- Let your child play with other children
- Read longer stories to your child
- Pay attention to your child when he's talking
- Talk about places you've been or will be going

## Between four and five

## Milestones

- Has sentence length of 4-5 words
- Uses past tense correctly
- Has a vocabulary of nearly 1500 words
- Points to colors red, blue, yellow and green
- Identifies triangles, circles and squares
- Understands "In the morning", "next", "noontime"
- Can speak of imaginary conditions such as "I hope"
- Asks many questions, asks "who?" And "why?"

### *Activities to encourage your child's language*

- Help your child sort objects and things (ex. things you eat, animals. . )
- Teach your child how to use the telephone
- Let your child help you plan activities such as what you will make for Thanksgiving dinner
- Continue talking with him about his interests
- Read longer stories to him
- Let her tell and make up stories for you
- Show your pleasure when she comes to talk with you

These milestones are a reference guide only. Hopefully they can serve to either 'put your mind at ease' or trigger a referral to your local speech pathologist!

I'm happy to be contacted by email at [rachel@talktraining.com.au](mailto:rachel@talktraining.com.au) if there is anything you would like more information about.

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