

## **Normal Pattern of Speech Development**

Information from Schwartz ER. Speech and language disorders. In Schwartz MW ed. Pediatric primary care: a problem oriented approach. St. Louis: Mosby 1990 696-700. Referenced at [www.aafp.org/afp/990600ap/3121.html](http://www.aafp.org/afp/990600ap/3121.html)

Age	Achievement
1-6 months	Coos in response to voice
6-9 months	Babbling
10-11 months	Imitation of sounds; says "mama/dada" without meaning
12 months	Says "mama/dada" with meaning; often imitates two and three syllable words
13-15 months	Vocabulary of four to seven words in addition to jargon 20% of speech understood by strangers
16-18 months	Vocabulary of 10 words; some echolalia and extensive jargon. 20-25% of speech understood by strangers
19-21 months	Vocabulary of 20 words; 50% of speech understood by strangers
22-24 months	Vocabulary > 50 words; two word phrases; dropping out of jargon, 60-70% of speech understood by strangers
24-30 months	Vocabulary of 400 words, including names; two to three word phrases; use of pronouns; diminishing echolalia; 75% of speech understood by strangers
30-36 months	Use of plurals and past tense; knows age and sex; counts three objects correctly; three to five words per sentence; 80-90% understood by strangers
3-4 years	Three to six words per sentence; asks questions, converses, relates experiences, tells stories; almost all speech understood by strangers
4-5 years	Six to eight words per sentence; names four colors, counts 10 pennies correctly