

Your Baby's Hearing and Communicative Development Checklist

Hearing

Science

Birth to 3 Months

YES NO

- Reacts to loud sounds
- Calms down or smiles when spoken to
- Recognizes your voice and calms down if crying
- When feeding, starts or stops sucking in response to sound
- Coos and makes pleasure sounds
- Has a special way of crying for different needs
- Smiles when he or she sees you

4 to 6 Months

YES NO

- Follows sounds with his or her eyes
- Responds to changes in the tone of your voice
- Notices toys that make sounds
- Pays attention to music
- Babbles in a speech-like way and uses many different sounds, including sounds that begin with p, b, and m
- Laughs
- Babbles when excited or unhappy
- Makes gurgling sounds when alone or playing with you

7 Months to 1 Year

YES NO

- Enjoys playing peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake
- Turns and looks in the direction of sounds
- Listens when spoken to
- Understands words for common items such as "cup," "shoe," or "juice"

- Responds to requests ("Come here" or "Want more?")
- Babbles using long and short groups of sounds ("tata, upup, bibibi")
- Babbles to get and keep attention
- Communicates using gestures such as waving or holding up arms
- Imitates different speech sounds
- Has one or two words ("Hi," "dog," "Dada," or "Mama") by first birthday

1 to 2 Years

YES NO

- Knows a few parts of the body and can point to them when asked
- Follows simple commands ("Roll the ball") and understands simple questions ("Where's your shoe?")
- Enjoys simple stories, songs, and rhymes
- Points to pictures, when named, in books
- Acquires new words on a regular basis
- Uses some one- or two-word questions ("Where kitty?" or "Go bye-bye?")
- Puts two words together ("More cookie" or "No juice")
- Uses many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words

2 to 3 Years

YES NO

- Has a word for almost everything
- Uses two- or three-word phrases to talk about and ask for things
- Uses k, g, f, t, d, and n sounds
- Speaks in a way that is understood by family members and friends
- Names objects to ask for them or to direct attention to them





NIDCD supports and conducts research and research training on the normal and disordered processes of hearing, balance, smell, taste, voice, speech, and language and provides health information, based upon scientific discovery, to the public.

3 to 4 Years

YES NO

- Hears you when you call from another room
- Hears the television or radio at the same sound level as other family members
- Answers simple "Who?" "What?" "Where?" and "Why?" questions
- Talks about activities at daycare, preschool, or friends' homes
- Uses sentences with four or more words
- Speaks easily without having to repeat syllables or words

4 to 5 Years

YES NO

- Pays attention to a short story and answers simple questions about it
- Hears and understands most of what is said at home and in school
- Uses sentences that give many details
- Tells stories that stay on topic
- Communicates easily with other children and adults
- Says most sounds correctly except for a few (l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, and th)
- Uses rhyming words
- Names some letters and numbers
- Uses adult grammar

This checklist is based upon *How Does Your Child Hear and Talk?*, courtesy of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

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