

BY  
**3**  
MONTHS

- Makes eye contact
- Cries differently for different needs, e.g. hungry vs. tired
- Coos and smiles

- Turns head toward sound or voice
- Quiets or smiles in response to sound or voice
- Shows interest in faces

BY  
**6**  
MONTHS

- Begins to use consonant sounds in babbling, e.g. "da, da, da"
- Makes different kinds of sounds to express feelings
- Uses babbling to get attention

- Listens and responds when spoken to
- Reacts to sudden noises or sounds
- Notices toys that make sounds

BY  
**9**  
MONTHS

- Imitates sounds
- Uses increased variety of sounds and syllable combinations in babbling
- Participates in two-way communication
- Uses simple gestures, e.g. shaking head for "no"

- Recognizes sound of their name
- Looks at familiar objects and people when named
- Follows some routine commands paired with gestures
- Shows recognition of commonly used words

BY  
**12**  
MONTHS

- Meaningfully uses "mama" or "dada"
- Imitates speech sounds
- Babbling has sounds and rhythms of speech
- Produces long strings of gibberish (jargoning) in social communication
- Says one or two words
- Begins using hand movements to communicate wants and needs, e.g. reaches to be picked up

- Responds to "no"
- Responds to simple directions, e.g. "come here"
- Pays attention to where you are looking and pointing

BY  
**15**  
MONTHS

- May use 5-10 words
- Imitates simple words and actions
- Combines sounds and gestures

- Consistently follows simple directions
- Shows interest in pictures
- Can identify 1-2 body parts when named
- Understands 50 words

BY  
**18**  
MONTHS

- Repeats words overheard in conversation
- Responds to questions
- Continues to produce speech-like babbling

- Points at familiar objects and people in pictures
- Understands "in" and "on"
- Responds to yes/no questions with head shake/nod

BY  
**21**  
MONTHS

- Uses at least 50 words
- Consistently imitates new words
- Names objects and pictures

- Understands simple pronouns (me, you, my)
- Understands new words quickly
- Identifies 3-5 body parts when named

BY  
**24**  
MONTHS

- Uses gestures and words during pretend play
- Begins to use 2-word phrases
- Uses simple pronouns (me, you, my)

- Understands action words
- Follows 2-step related directions, e.g. "Pick up your coat and bring it to me."
- Enjoys listening to stories

BY  
**30**  
MONTHS

- Consistently uses 2-3 word phrases
- Uses "in" and "on"
- At least 50% of speech is understood by caregiver

- Follows 2-step unrelated directions, e.g. "Give me the ball and go get your coat."
- Understands basic nouns and pronouns
- Understands "mine" and "yours"

BY  
**36**  
MONTHS

- Asks "what" and "where" questions
- Uses plurals, e.g. "dogs"
- Most speech is understood by caregiver

- Understands most simple sentences
- Simple understanding of concepts including color, space, time
- Understands "why" questions

*\*Remember to correct your child's age for prematurity.*