



The following are signs of normal speech development for infants and toddlers:

- By 3 months, a baby will be making vowel sounds such as “ooh- ohh.” These are likely to be responses to parents at playtime or feeding time, but they also occur while the baby is lying in her crib talking to herself.
- At 8 to 10 month, the sounds and speech rhythms become richer. A baby will use a few consonants, including “ma-ma-ma” and “da-da-da.” However, they may not yet be attached to the appropriate person.
- At 1 year, a baby will talk a stream of gibberish but will usually attach “mama” and “dad” to the right person. She’ll be able to respond to one-step commands, such as “give the toy to me.”
- At 15 months, a baby will continue to speak unintelligible gibberish but with more actual words. “Receptive speech” will be more developed, which means she will understand more commands. A baby of this age should have 10 or more words.
- At 18 months, a toddler will probably be able to say “ball,” “doggie,” names of special people and action words such as “bye-bye,” “Yes” and “no.” Both nouns and verbs will be represented in her speech, and she will use complex gesture for communication.
- At 2 years, a child may start putting nouns and verbs together: “Daddy eat,” “mommy go.” Receptive speech is progressing to 2 commands (“Go into the other room and get me m book”).

If any of these signposts are delayed, a child should be evaluated for hearing and/or speech delays.