

COMMUNICATION STAGES FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Milestones for your infant at 0-3 months:

- Cries, smiles, coos
- Looks at faces
- Quiets when picked up or comforted (most of the time)
- Listens to voices

Milestones for your infant at 3-6 months:

- Smiles and laughs
- Cries when upset, and looks for comfort (ie: snuggles into your shoulder)
- Shows excitement by waving their arms and legs
- Likes to look at and be near people who are special and significant in their lives
- Can be comforted (most of the time)

Milestones for your infant at 6-9 months:

- Babbles (lots of different, playful sounds) using at least 4 different sounds
- Laughs, giggles, gurgles and coos with familiar people
- Reacts to loud, angry, and friendly voices
- Turns and looks to new sounds
- Makes sounds and babbles to get attention
- Plays games like Peek-a-boo
- May get upset if separated from a familiar person or people
- Responds to their own name
- Taps images of self in mirror
- Loves to watch faces

Milestones for your infant at 9-11 months:

- Tries to imitate sounds or facial movements (lip circle, sticking out tongue, etc.)
- May say "mama" and/or "dada"
- Shouts or vocalizes loudly to get attention
- Babbling starts to sound like "real speech" – this is called jargon
- Plays Peek-a-boo
- Repeats a syllable or sequence of sounds often
- Uses smiling and crying to indicate how they are feeling
- Shows affection for special and significant people in their life
- Trusts that their needs will be met (ie: crying will result in getting fed, etc.)

Milestones for your toddler at 12-18 months:

- Recognizes his or her name
- Understands "no"
- Understands simple instructions
- Points and gestures to call attention to an event or to show what they want
- Imitates (copies) familiar words
- Waves good-bye and plays Pat-a-Cake
- Uses "mama" and "dada" and several other words, usually names of objects or people
- Attempts to communicate by mixing jargon with real words (e.g. babbling that sounds like real words)
- Vocalizes for enjoyment
- Points to show you something
- Points to a few body parts when asked, ie: "Where's your mouth?"
- Imitates animal sounds
- Begins to show sense of humour
- Plays best on their own; doesn't want to share toys with others, shouting "mine, mine!"

Milestones for your toddler at 18-24 (1½ - 2 years):

- Uses 10 - 20 different words
- Starts to combine 2 words (e.g. baby sleep)
- Uses words to make needs and wants known, like "more", "up", "juice"
- Imitates sounds and words more clearly
- Points to objects and/or uses gestures to show or direct attention to something
- Points to own toes, eyes and nose
- Brings an object from another room when asked (follows 1-part directions)
- Sings simple songs
- Mixes real words and jargon
- Practices words over and over on their own (e.g. while playing in their bed etc.)

Milestones for your toddler at 24-30 months (2 - 2 ½ years):

- Understands simple questions and commands
- Identifies many body parts
- Carries on "conversation" with self and dolls
- Asks "what's this?", "what's that?", and "where's my..."
- Sentence length of 2-3 words (ie: "more juice" or "want cookie")
- Names pictures and actions
- Refers to self by name
- Uses 2 - word negative phrases such as "no want", "not go" or "no right"
- Forms some plurals by adding "s" (e.g. books)
- Asks for a drink or snack
- Has about 200 spoken words in their vocabulary

Milestones for your toddler at 30-36 months (2 ½ - 3 years):

- Uses about 450 words
- Can give first name when asked
- Uses past tense (e.g. "ed" endings) and plurals (e.g. "s" endings) (not always correctly)
- Combines names of things with action words ie: baby sleep
- Understands simple time concepts such as "last night" and "tomorrow"
- Refers to self as "me" or "I" instead of by name
- Uses their words to get adult attention ie: "watch me!"
- Likes to hear the same story over and over again
- Uses "no" or "not" in their speech
- Talks to other children as well as adults
- Answers "where" questions
- Uses short sentences to tell what he/she has just done or wants to do ie: "me do it" or "me want to jump"
- Matches 3-4 colors
- Knows the words "big" and "little"
- Holds up fingers to tell age