



If You Think Your Child Has a Hearing Loss

It is important that parents be aware of their child's hearing from the moment their child is born. A child's hearing can be affected by many things. Some children run a high risk of hearing loss due to heredity or perinatal complications including rubella, syphilis, low birthweight, meningitis, and asphyxia. Toddlers and preschool age children may acquire a temporary or permanent hearing loss with repeated middle ear infections. Older children may acquire a hearing loss with repeated exposure to loud noise such as loud music.

If you suspect your child has difficulty hearing, seek professional help immediately. Early attention to your child's hearing will help your child reach his or her full potential.

Here are a few guidelines to help you determine if your child's hearing is normal.

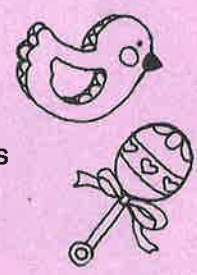
From birth to three months the child should . . .

- Startle or cry at loud noises
- Stop moving and seem to listen to speech or sounds
- Awaken at a loud sound



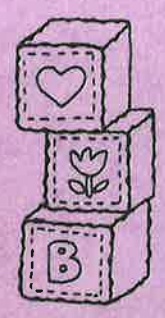
From three to six months your child should . . .

- Look toward a sound or speaker
- Smile when spoken to
- Recognize mother's voice
- Enjoy rattles and other toys that make sounds



From six to nine months your child should . . .

- Respond to his or her name
- Babble and make lots of different sounds
- Respond to "no"



Speech and Language Of The One Year Old

At age one, your child . . .

recognizes his or her name.

understands "no".

understands simple instructions.

imitates familiar words.

waves good-bye and plays pat-a-cake.

uses "mama" and "dada" and several other words,
usually nouns.

likes to make the "sounds" of familiar animals
and things.

gives a toy on request.

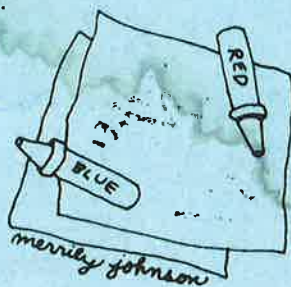
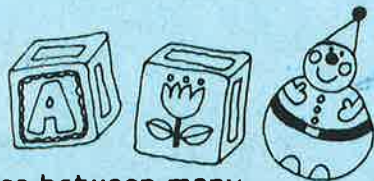
laughs a great deal.

hears well and discriminates between many
sounds.

shows a great deal of affection - makes noises
and pats parents affectionately.

places a cube in a cup on command.

scribbles imitatively with a crayon.





Speech and Language Of The Eighteen Month Old



At age eighteen months, your child . . .

uses 10 to 20 words, including names

hears well and discriminates among many sounds

recognizes pictures of familiar persons and objects

combines two words such as "all gone," "Daddy
bye-bye"

uses words to make wants known such as "more," "up"

imitates words and sounds more precisely

points and gestures to call attention to an event or to
show wants

points to his or her toes, eyes, and nose

brings familiar object from another room when asked

turns pages of a book a few at a time

follows simple commands

waves "bye-bye"

imitates housework: wiping up spills, setting table

makes a tower of 3 to 4 cubes

knows and says the names of 5 things

hums and may sing simple tunes





Speech and Language Of The Two Year Old



At age two, your child . . .

listens for the meaning of words, not just sounds.

understands simple questions and commands.

identifies body parts



uses mainly names of things, actions, persons
and situations in his or her language.

carries on "conversation" with self and dolls.

asks "what's this?", "what's that?" and "where's my?"

sentence length is composed of 2-3 words.

refers to self by name.

names pictures.



uses 2-word negative phrases such as "not go,"
"not right," "no want."

forms some plurals by adding "s"; book, books.

has around 300 words in speaking vocabulary.

builds an 8-block tower.

asks for drink, toilet, food.

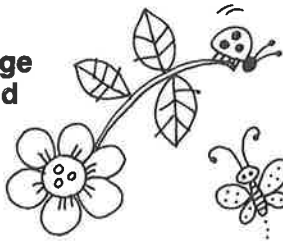
listens to stories with pictures.

stays with one activity 6-7 minutes.





Speech and Language Of The 2½ Year Old



At age 2½, your child . . .

has a 450 word vocabulary

gives first name

uses past tense and plurals and combines nouns and verbs

understands simple time concepts: "last night," "tomorrow"

refers to self as "me" rather than by name

tries to get adult attention: "watch me"

likes to hear same story repeated

uses "no" or "not" in speech and may say "no" when means "yes"

builds tower of 8 blocks

talks to other children as well as adults

begins to control behavior verbally rather than just physically

answers "where" questions

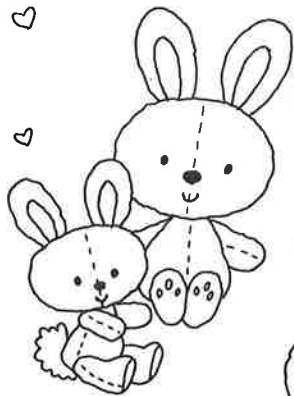
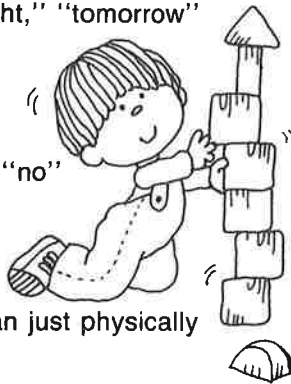
can name common pictures and things he or she comes in contact with regularly

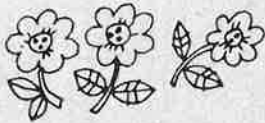
uses short sentences to announce what he or she has done or will do like, "Me do it," or "Me want to jump"

matches 3-4 colors

knows big and little

holds up fingers to tell age

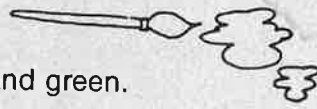









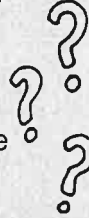
Speech and Language Of The Four Year Old



At age four, your child . . .



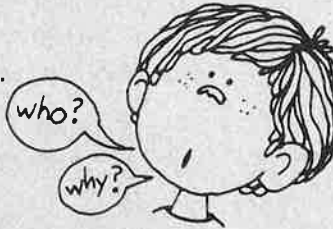
-  points to colors red, blue, yellow and green.
-  identifies crosses, triangles, circles and squares.
-  follows commands even though objects not present.
-  understands "early in the morning," "next month," "next year," "noontime."
-  can speak of imaginary conditions such as "suppose that" or "I hope."



asks **many** questions although more interested in how answers fit his/her own thoughts rather than just the explanation.

has a sentence length of 4-5 words.

asks "who?" and "why?"



begins to use complex sentences.

uses contractions such as "it's a" or "there's a."

uses past tense correctly.



copies a line and a circle.



has a vocabulary of nearly 1500 words.

uses the following sounds correctly: m, n, ng, p, f, h, w, y, k, b, d, g, r.

stays with one activity 11-12 minutes.



merrily johnson





Reading To Your Child



How to read a book to your child . . .

Show delight and enthusiasm as you read. Never turn reading into a chore.

Try to read to your child each day.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9			



Find a time when you and the child are relaxed and interested in reading, such as at bedtime or after a nap.

Let your child choose the books and pages to read.



Point to the pictures as you talk about them.

Let the child help hold the book and turn the pages.



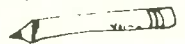
Tell a familiar story, but leave out words or parts of sentences for your child to fill in.

Let your child describe the pictures and tell the story to you.



Write down your child's homemade story and read it to him.

and then the little bug went da



Ask the child to make up a story, or to finish one you have started.



If your child periodically does not show an interest in reading, continue to read to the child as he plays quietly. Eventually the child will again be eager to participate in reading.





If You Think Your Child Has A Speech Problem



Your child's speech sounds will develop as he grows. A baby makes early vocalizations around two or three months, babbles around 6 months and uses jargon from about 18 months to 30 months. The majority of sounds a 3-year-old makes should be normal. Although he may not use all sounds correctly, he should be intelligible to strangers.

Summary Of Speech Sound Development



Age	Consonants
3	m, n, ng, p, f, h, w
3½	y (as in yes)
4	k, b, d, g, r
4½	s, sh (as in shoe), ch (as in chair)
6	t, v, l, th (as in thin)
7	z, zh (measure), th (father), j (jump)

Norms from Mildred Templin, **Certain Language Skills in Children**, 1957.

