

Communication Milestones

By 12 months

- Responds to noise
- Looks at you while you talk
- Gets your attention by using their voice
- Babbles using different consonant sounds (m, p, b, t, d, w, h)
- Looks at objects when you point to them
- Uses a variety of gestures (i.e. wave, clap, blow kisses)
- Responds to their name
- Understands words for common objects (e.g. car, ball, bottle)
- Beginning to use or imitate environmental sounds or animal noises

18 months

- Identifies 1 or more body parts
- Able to use pretend play
- Understand and uses 20-50 words
- Shakes head “no” or nods “yes”

12+ months

- Follows simple directions (e.g. “give me the ball”, “get the cow”)
- Pointing to “show” or make requests
- Responds to “where” questions by looking around
- Uses long strings of sounds, syllables and real words with typical speech inflection

24 months

- Combining 2+ words (e.g. “more water”)
- Can be understood 50-60% of the time
- Follows 2-step directions (“get your shoes and put them on”)

Reference:

<https://www.surreyplace.ca/media/Communication-Checklist-English.pdf>

What counts as a word?

A word “counts” when it is used consistently, intentionally(not randomly) and independently(in context)!

Animal sounds
(e.g. baaa)

Exclamatory words
(e.g. “uh oh”, “eee”)

Part words
(e.g. “u” for “up”)

Sign language or gestures
(e.g. arms up to be picked up)

Some books we love for early communicators

Maa, Baa, LaLaLa by Sandra Boynton
Peekaboo Kisses by Barney Saltzberg
Peek-a WHO by Nina Laden
Brown Bear Brown Bear by Eric Carle

Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
Open the Barn Door by Christopher Santoro
Little Blue Truck by Alice Schertle
10 Little Fingers and 10 Little Toes by Mem Fox



If you have concerns about your child, please reach out to a Speech-Language Pathologist.

Public: www.surreyplace.on

Private: www.kidsmith.ca or email us at info@kidsmith.ca