

COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST

BIRTH - 12 MONTHS

During their first year, children develop the ability to hear and recognise the sounds of their parents' language.

- Between 0-3 months communicates by crying, cooing, smiling and making eye contact
- Between 3-6 months communicates by crying, cooing, smiling, making eye contact, pointing, blowing raspberries and laughing
- Between 6-9 months communicates by babbling, using sounds made with the lips (e.g. b and m) in sequences like "baba" and later "bamada"
- Is interested in watching your face
- Shows delight when you reply to their chatter
- Responds to you imitating them
- Notices familiar sounds and voices
- Recognises familiar people and responds to them
- Enjoys books and music
- Plays with sounds (babbling)
- Responds to their name and basic commands such as 'no' and the names of familiar objects
- Between 9-12 months, communicates by babbling more, and using more sounds (e.g. d, m, n, h, w, t)
- Around 12 months begins to use words

If you CANNOT tick all of the boxes for your child's age group, a Speech Pathologist assessment is strongly recommended.

COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST

12 MONTHS



Understands about 10 words



Responds to their name



Recognises greetings and gestures such as "hi" and "bye-bye"



Recognises a few familiar people and objects (e.g. mummy, blanky, teddie)



Makes eye contact



Starts to use sounds, gestures, and say a few words



Continues to extend babbling



Copies different sounds and noises

COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST

18 MONTHS

- Understands up to 50 words and some short phrases
- Follows simple instructions (e.g. 'throw the ball')
- Points to familiar objects when named
- Points to some pictures in familiar books
- Says 6 to 20 single words – some easier to understand than others, but becoming more consistent
- Copies lots of words and noises
- Names a few body parts
- Uses objects in pretend play (e.g. hold toy phone to their ear and say "hello?")

IMPORTANT NOTE: Stuttering and voice problems are not part of normal communication development. Follow up with a Speech Pathologist is highly recommended.

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COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST

2 YEARS OLD

- Follows routine, familiar directions with cues
- Sits to complete a table top task with some prompting
- Demonstrates appropriate use of objects in play
- Identifies familiar objects from a group of objects
- Identifies photos of familiar objects and family members
- Identifies and labels body parts and clothing
- Understands and uses action words
- Names objects in photographs
- Uses 2 word combinations
- Uses grammatical endings on words e.g. girls, walking
- Uses the following sounds clearly in words: m/p/b/h/w
- Speaking vocabulary of 50+ words

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COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST

3 YEARS OLD

- Sits for the duration of an activity without prompting
- Understands spatial concepts e.g. in, on, off, out of
- Understands 'my', 'your', 'me'
- Understands use of objects
- Understands descriptive words e.g. big, wet, little
- Follows 2 - step related instructions without cues
- Asks questions
- Answers 'what?' and 'where?' questions
- Combines sentences of 4+ words consistently in speech
- Uses a variety of object, action, place and describing words together in sentences
- Uses the following sounds clearly in words: m/p/b/h/w/t/d/k/g/y/f/l/s
- Gives first name, last name and sex
- Relates experiences from recent past
- Speaking vocabulary of over 450 words
- 75-100% of speech is understood by others

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COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST

4 YEARS OLD

- Understands quantity concepts e.g. some, rest, all
- Identifies and labels colours
- Can predict and make inferences e.g. what will happen if?
- Produces 5 + word sentences
- Can explain how an object is used
- Can reason 'why?' questions
- Understands and responds to most questions asked
- Uses grammatically correct sentences, however may make errors with irregular past tense e.g. "eated" for "ate"
- Uses the following sounds correctly in words:
m/n/p/b/h/w/t/d/k/g/y/f/l/s/z/sh/ch/j

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COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST

5 YEARS OLD

- Speaking vocabulary of 1500 words
- Uses and understands long sentences
- Uses grammatically correct sentences
- Can tell and retell a story heard
- Asks and answers a wide variety of questions
- Can describe and reason
- Uses all sounds clearly in conversation except for the 'th' sound
- Speech is readily understood by un/familiar people
- Uses more complex vocabulary that expands every week
- Participates in detailed conversations
- Is able to rhyme words
- Hears and identify words that start with the same sound
- Is successfully learning to read (if at school)

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COMMUNICATION CHECKLIST

6 YEARS OLD

- Follows a series of instructions independently
- Listens attentively to a story without visual aids
- Understands complex questions which require prediction, inference and evaluation
- Can tell news without any assistance
- Can retell a story without prompting
- Explains reasons for things happening
- Asks complex questions to find out information
- Has no grammatical errors
- All speech sounds are clear; except 'th' (which can develop by 7-8 years).
- Uses words to express emotions
- Maintains a conversational topic, taking appropriate turns
- Is able to spell, read and write at grade appropriate level
- Completes reading comprehension tasks at grade appropriate level

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