BELS Barnet Education & Learning Service

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Team

Stages of Hearing, Language and Speech Development

Age Level	Hearing and Understanding	Yes	No	Speech	Yes	No
Birth to 3 months	• Gives a startled response to loud sudden noises within 3 feet • Calms to a familiar, friendly face • Wakes when you speak or make noise nearby			• Coos and gurgles • Laughs and uses voice when playing • Watches your face when spoken to		
3 to 6 months	• Looks to see where sounds come from • Becomes frightened by an angry voice • Smiles when spoken to • Likes to play with toys or objects that make a noise			• Babbles (uses a series of sounds) • Makes at least 4 different sounds using his or her voice • Babbles to people when they speak		
6 to 9 months	• Turns to look at you when you speak in a quiet voice • Waves when you say “bye bye” • Stops for a moment when you say “no-no” • Looks at objects or pictures when someone talks about them			• Babbles using “song-like tunes” • Uses voice to get your attention instead of crying • Uses different sounds and appears to be naming things		
9 to 12 months	• Points or looks at familiar objects or people when asked to • Follows directions “open your mouth” “give me the ball” • Dances and makes sounds to music			• Uses jargon (appears to be talking) • Uses consonant sounds like b, d, g, m and n when talking • Jabbers in response to a human voice, changes loudness of voice and uses rhythm and tone		
12 to 18 months	• Points to body parts (hair, eyes, nose, mouth) when asked to • Brings objects to you when asked • Hears and identifies sounds coming from another room or from outside			• Gives one-word answer to questions • Imitates many new words • Uses words of more than one syllable with meaning (“bottle”) • Speaks 10 to 20 words		

18 to 24 months	• Understands simple "yes/no" questions • Understands simple phrases with prepositions ("in the cup") • Enjoys being read to and points to pictures when asked			• Uses his or her own first name • Uses "my" to get toys and other objects • Tells experiences using jargon and words • Uses two-word sentences like "my shoes" "go bye bye" "more juice"		
24 to 30 months	• Understands negative statements ("no more" "not now") • Selects objects according to size (big, little) • Follows simple directions ("Get your shoes and socks")			• Answers questions ("What do you do when you are sleepy?") • Uses plural words (2 books, dogs) • Speaks 100-200 words •		
30 to 36 months	• Understands uses of objects ("Show me what goes on your foot") • Understands the concept of one and can hand you one of something (1 biscuit, 1 ball) • Correctly identifies boys and girls • Understands many action words like "run" or "jump"			• Understands question forms correctly (who? what? where?) • Uses negatives forms ("it is not" "I can't") • Relates experiences using 4 to 5-word sentences		
3 to 4 years	• Understands why? and when? questions ("why do you wash your hands?") • Understand opposites like fast and slow • Correctly selects objects according the colour			• Uses different forms of action words ("I play" "I want to play" "we played") • Counts to 10 • Tells you about pictures in books or about a drawing "I made a purple flower")		
4 to 5 years	• Understands size comparisons (big, bigger, biggest) • Understands many pronouncs ("Give it to her" "give it to him") • Follows a 2- to 3-step command ("Go to the kitchen, get a cup and put it on the table")			• Speaks at least 1,500 words • Says most sounds correctly except possibly "s" and "th" • Talks freely to family and friends using full sentences that most people can understand		

- Babies learn to talk during their first years. Words help them share thoughts and feelings with the important people in their world
- As your baby hears words, language and learning begin and speech develops