

Speech and Language Developmental Chart (Ages 6months–5 years)

Age	Speech Sound Production	Language Acquisition	Social Communication
6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Babbling becomes more varied and complex (e.g., “ba-ba”, “da-da”) Experiments with different sounds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands “no”. Looks when called by name. Uses first words like “mama” and “dada”. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses gestures like waving and pointing. Responds to social games (e.g, peek-a-boo).
1-2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produces simple sounds, p, b, m, d, and n. May simplify longer words (e.g., “baba” for “bottle”). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocabulary expands to 50+ words by 18 months. Combines two-word phrases (e.g., “more milk”). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imitates adults. Uses pointing to indicate interest. Begins simple turn-taking in conversations.
2-3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses k, g, t, d, and f sounds. Speech becomes clearer, though some simplifications remain (e.g., “gog” for “dog”). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands and follows simple instructions. Vocabulary expands to 200+ words. Begins using three- to four-word sentences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engages in pretend play. Starts conversational turn-taking. Begins showing empathy (e.g., comforting others).
3-4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most sounds are intelligible to familiar listeners, though errors may occur with complex sounds l, r, s. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses sentences with 4-5 words. Understands concepts like “big” and “little”. Asks “why” and “how” questions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participates in longer conversations. Adjusts language based on context. Engages in cooperative play.
4-5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speech is mostly clear and intelligible to unfamiliar listeners. Masters most sounds, though l, r, s, ch, sh, and th may still be developing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uses full sentences and understands basic grammar. Understands concepts like time and sequence (e.g., “first,” “next”). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows social rules (e.g., greetings). Can take turns in conversation. Shows interest in group activities.

This developmental chart aligns closely with World Health Organisation and NHS UK guidelines for speech and language development in children aged 0–5. Every child develops at their own pace. If parents or caregivers have concerns, they are encouraged to consult with their child’s teacher, a healthcare provider, GP or speech and language therapist, as early intervention can improve a child’s communication outcomes.