



Children's Language Development

Age	LISTENING & UNDERSTANDING <i>Children can ...</i>	SPEAKING <i>Children can ...</i>
1½	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Recognise their name ★ Understand 'no' ★ Follow simple instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Say some words other than 'mama' & 'dada' ★ Wave goodbye ★ Say some animal noises ★ Get attention by squealing & making noise
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Follow simple commands e.g. 'stand up' ★ Point to some body parts ★ Recognise common objects e.g. cup, teddy ★ Respond to familiar sounds e.g. bell, car ★ Listen to simple stories ★ Understand 'more' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Join two words in a sentence ★ Ask "what's that?" ★ Refer to self by name ★ Join in familiar songs ★ Start to name some pictures ★ Use negative phrases e.g. 'no want', 'not go'
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Understand many words ★ Point to body parts ★ Point to one or two colours ★ Attend & listen for a longer time ★ Recognise common opposites e.g. big, little ★ Understand some positions e.g. on, under 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Talk in 3 to 4 word sentences ★ Say what they are doing ★ Say actions in a picture e.g. brushing ★ Say their name and gender ★ Use pronouns e.g. I, it, this, my, mine, you ★ Ask 'what' and 'where' questions
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Understand position concepts e.g. next to ★ Understand concepts of quantity e.g. empty ★ Point to many pictures of objects & actions ★ Identity some shapes ★ Follow longer and more complex instructions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Talk in 4 to 5 word sentences ★ Ask many questions ★ Use joining words for complex sentences e.g. and, because ★ Use correct grammatical endings e.g. _ing - jumping, _ed - jumped ★ Use small grammar words e.g. the, is, are ★ Use most pronouns e.g. he, she, his, her
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Understand opposites e.g. high/low ★ Begin to understand complex questions e.g. 'why?' ★ Demonstrate interest in reading & writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Talk in 6 + word sentences ★ Talk about past & future events ★ Explain how & why ★ Share ideas & make comments ★ Begin to express ideas in writing



Use this chart as a guide to understanding your child's language development.