



# Communication Checklist

For Children from Birth to Age Five

Communication is developed over time. This checklist outlines the ages that communication milestones are normally reached.

If the answer is **NO** to any of the following questions, contact a Speech-Language Pathologist. Consult with your doctor for a referral, check the yellow pages or contact the Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists 1-800-259-8519 or [www.caslpa.ca](http://www.caslpa.ca)

## BY THREE MONTHS

Does the child:

Yes No

- Startle to a sudden sound?
- Turn to where a sound is coming from?
- Make sounds? (*oo, ah*)
- Look at you with interest when you talk to her/him?
- Smile in response to you?

## BY SIX MONTHS

Does the child:

Yes No

- Make several different sounds?
- Try to get you attention by looking at you face and or making sounds?
- Make sounds and smile in response to your facial expressions and sounds?

## BY NINE MONTHS

Does the child:

Yes No

- Reach out to be picked up?
- Respond to her/his name?
- Make *speech-like* sounds? (*baba, gaga*)
- Babble tunefully (sing-song voice) while playing alone?
- Turn to where a voice spoken words is coming from?
- Enjoy being played with and does he/she take turns making sounds back and forth?
- Understand *no*?

## BY TWELVE MONTHS

Does the child:

Yes No

- Use a finger to point out things to you in the environment?
- Imitate or use gestures like waving bye-bye?
- Let you know what he/she wants by using a combination of sounds and actions?
- Bring you toys he/she wants to show you and /or play with?
- Enjoy playing games like Peek-a-boo and Pat-a-cake and will he/she sometimes start the game?

- Understand some simple phrases? (*Come here. Don't touch*)

## BY FIFTEEN MONTHS

Does the child:

**Yes** **No**

- Usually look at you when communicating?
- Repeat words he/she hears?
- Seem to be talking in sentences but not using real words?
- Say one or two words?
- Understand some simple questions and commands? (*Go get a diaper. Where's the ball?*)

## BY EIGHTEEN MONTHS

Does the child:

**Yes** **No**

- Point, look at you, and then at what he/she is talking about?
- Use the word *no*?
- Say about ten or more words?
- Understand and use the names of familiar objects? (light, ball, bed, car)
- Sometimes answer the question: *What's this?*
- Take turns when playing with a partner?
- Use toys for pretend play?

## BY TWO YEARS

Does the child:

**Yes** **No**

- Point to some body parts?
- Use descriptive words? (hungry, big, hot)
- Use two word combinations? (*Me go. More cookie.*)
- Ask questions like: *What dat?*
- Enjoy listening to simple stories?

## BY THREE YEARS

Does the child:

**Yes** **No**

- Follow two-part directions? (*Go to the kitchen and get your cup.*)
- Participate in short conversations?
- Use sentences of three words or more to communicate?
- Talk about something that happened in the past?
- Ask *why* questions?
- Do people outside the family understand one half of what he/she says?

## BY FOUR YEARS

Does the child:

**Yes** **No**

- Talk in whole sentences using adult-like grammar?
- Tell a story that is easy to follow?
- Ask many questions?
- Answer *who, how, how many* questions

- Use *I, me, you, he* and *she* properly?
- Start a conversation and continue it, staying on the same topic?
- Use language to create pretend situations when playing with others?
- Does people outside the family understand more than 3/4 of what the child says?

## BY FIVE YEARS

Does the child:

- |   | <b>Yes</b>               | <b>No</b>                |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Explain how an object can be used?                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - Answer <i>when and why</i> questions?                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - Talk about past, future, and imaginary events?                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - Participate in long, detailed conversations?                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| - Do people outside the family understand most of what he/she says? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## REFER ANY CHILD...

- If you are concerned about her/his speech/language/hearing\* development.
- If her/his speech and language skills have not improved over the past six months.
- Who often repeats sound and/or words (stuttering).
- Whose voice sounds different /odd to you.
- Whose play or social interactions seem inappropriate.
- With a diagnosis such as cleft lip/palate, hearing loss. PDD/Autism, developmental delay (who is not receiving services).

\*Please refer to an [audiologist](#) for any concerns about hearing.