

Language Development Guide

LINGUISTIC STAGE | 1 - 6 years

AGE	LANGUAGE ABILITIES & EXPRESSION	ENVIRONMENTAL AIDS
12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The child's first intentional word spoken (may be earlier or later).- Babbling becomes "variegated": it includes some words and some babbles, gradually increasing the number of spoken words used.- Your child may be able to say 1-15 words, but already understands 70-100.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is no longer necessary to mimic babbles.• singing songs, talking directly to baby, reading books, and explaining pictures
18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Generalization of nouns or "over-extension" Examples: all animals are called <i>dog</i> & all colors are <i>blue</i>- Telegraphic speech or "holo phrases" - 1 word conveys a whole sentence Example: "out" means <i>I want to go outside</i>- One-word sentences advances to two-word phrases, then to three-word phrases. The chosen words are usually only nouns or verbs.- This stage can last up to the age of 3 years old. By the age of 3 if a child is still not speaking in 3-word sentences, this could be a sign of speech delay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Montessori language activities and games• modelling having conversations with the child• actively listening when the child is speaking to you• child-led walks and outings paired with conversations about experiences and observations
24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Explosion into language!- The child has enough language to express their needs vocally and you can understand them.- The child starts to use the word "I".- The child learns approximately 7-10 new words per day, or 1 new word every 2 waking hours!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ALL ABOVE AIDS• If your child is not yet speaking in 3-word sentences by the age of 3, this could a sign of a speech delay.• If your child is over 3 and you are concerned about a speech delay, you can seek advice from your child's paediatrician or a speech pathologist.
3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The child understands approximately 13,000 words!- The child can use the phrase "I think" to express an idea.- He can use the word "know" to show understanding.- He uses the word "yesterday" to describe everything that has happened in the past.- He uses the word "tomorrow" for everything that will happen in the future.- This stage can last up to the age of 6 years old.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laughing at mistakes can discourage the child's attempts to learn.• To correct a child's grammatical mistakes, simply repeat the sentence back to him correctly, avoiding negativity.• The adult should be prepared for any situation to become a language lesson.• Keep in mind that the child processes language slower and is still learning. Be patient.• Speak slower to a child than in adult-directed speech. Repeat yourself when necessary.• Get the attention of the child; look her in the eyes; say one thing; observe understanding; say the next thing.