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## Hearing Problems and Speech and Language Milestones

Children may reach speech and language milestones at different ages. But in some cases, a child that isn't developing speech and language on track may have a hearing problem.

### Signs of a hearing problem

Being able to hear is important for good speech and language growth. A child who doesn't respond to sounds or who isn't developing language skills may have trouble hearing. The age guidelines below may help you know if your child has a hearing problem. Talk with your child's healthcare provider if you think your child isn't developing speech and language skills on time.

### Speech and language milestones

Age	Milestone
<b>Birth to 3 months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reacts to loud noises</li><li>• Smiles at you</li><li>• Makes sounds of pleasure</li><li>• Knows your voice and may calm down if upset</li></ul>
<b>4 to 6 months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Laughs</li><li>• Babbles (says "ba-ba-ba")</li><li>• Notices music or toys that make sounds</li></ul>
<b>7 months to 1 year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Looks towards sounds</li><li>• Understands some words like cup or shoe</li><li>• Imitates different sounds</li><li>• Says first words</li></ul>
<b>1 to 2 years</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Can point to a few parts of the body</li><li>• Points to pictures in books when asked</li><li>• Asks simple 2-word questions</li><li>• Continues to add new words</li><li>• Uses 2-word phrases, such as "more milk"</li></ul>
<b>2 to 3 years</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Knows some spatial concepts, such as in and on</li><li>• Has words for most things</li><li>• Follows 2-step instructions</li><li>• Uses 3-word sentences</li><li>• Friends and family can understand much of what is said</li><li>• Enjoys hearing stories</li><li>• May have trouble with some sounds</li></ul>

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### **3 to 4 years**

- Can hear you from another room
- Can hear the TV and radio at same volume as others
- Identifies colors and shapes
- Talks about daycare, preschool, or other activities
- Use 4-word sentences
- Uses plural words, such as shoes or socks
- Uses pronouns, such as you, me, and her
- Strangers are able to understand much of what is said
- Answers simple questions, such as "What do you do when you are hungry?"

### **4 to 5 years**

- Understands words for time, such as today and tomorrow
- Understands words for order, such as first and last
- Follows more difficult or multistep directions
- Can say all speech sounds
- Identifies letters and numbers
- Can tell a short story
- Can have a conversation

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