

APPENDIX B

EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE MILESTONES

Note: The age ranges presented here reflect average age of development through the age by which 90% of children produced the task correctly.

1½ to 2 Years

- 10 to 30 words at 18 months; 150 to 275 words at 2 years
- First phrase (see comments in next item)
- First sentence (average length of utterance = 1.5 to 3 words, not necessarily in sentences or in adult logical order, but meaningful to the child and those close to him or her)
- Tries to repeat or imitate speech of others
- Nouns constitute 50% of the words used at 18 months; about 48% at 2 years
- Uses some noun modifiers (e.g., “my ball,” “Tommy book,” “big truck”)
- Uses inflections in speech and jargon
- Uses sounds and gestures for specific persons and objects
- Omits most articles and connectors (telegraphic speech)
- First use of pronouns (very personal: *me, I, you, it*)
- Imitates and repeats words (echolalia)
- Uses stereotyped phrases (e.g., “go by-bye,” “daddy home,” “don’t cry”)
- Simple verb forms, such as *go, ride, see, up* (e.g., “I want up” or “ball go up”)

2 to 2½ Years

- Vocabulary of 180 to 350 words
- Uses about 40% nouns, 20% verbs, 5% to 10% pronouns, 7% adverbs
- Repeats 2 digits or unrelated words from memory
- Asks simple questions
- Names of familiar objects
- Uses *and* appropriately
- Uses articles correctly
- Improvises own syntax to express self (e.g., “No ball play,” “Alec cookie”)
- Uses more pronouns related to others: *you, he, she*

2½ to 3 Years

- Rapid vocabulary expansion: 400 words at 30 months, 800 to 1,200 words at 36 months
- Short, simple sentences (2½ to 3½ words on average)
- Begins to ask questions
- Talks about immediate experiences
- Relates simple imaginative stories
- Adjectives and adverbs: *big, little, good, nice, bad*
- Prepositions: *in, on, off, up, under*
- Begins to use verb contractions
- Disfluencies are common
- 90% of speech readily understood
- Carries on meaningful conversation
- Identifies objects by use
- Talks when playing alone
- Asks for “more” and “another”
- Uses first person and second person pronouns correctly: *I, me, you, it, he, she, them*
- Describes actions seen in books
- Repeats 3 digits or unrelated words
- Likes rhymes and can repeat some

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