

Speech and Language Milestones

**Extracted from the RI Early Learning and
Development Standards**

(RIELDS)

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COS A

❖ *Communication skills that a 9 month old child is expected to have*

Outcome 1 Social-Emotional

- Socializes with preferred adults by reciprocally smiling, laughing, or vocalizing
- Watches a familiar adult's face and imitates facial expressions
- Begins to engage in reciprocal play, i.e. peek-a-boo
- Focuses on people and preferred objects for longer periods of time
- Babbles and smiles to show interest in other children
- Begins to respond to his/her own name
- Looks toward someone who is speaking
- Begins to look at pictures
- Responds to music and being sung to by listening, body movements, or babbling

Outcome 2 Acquiring and Using Knowledge and Skills

- Begins to recognize the names of familiar people and favorite objects
- Frequently engages in babbling with a variety of consonants and vowels
- Uses vocalizations, gestures, and facial expressions to communicate needs and wants and to express likes and dislikes
- Attends to a caregiver's voice when being held and read to
- Studies a person's face and explores facial features and expressions for long periods of time
- Responds to familiar people and objects in a way that is different from their responses to unfamiliar people or objects
- Pauses or stops when an adult says "stop" or tells them not to do something
- Gestures to request and refuse, i.e. reaches, points, turns away, or pushes toys away
- Anticipates routines and shows preferences
- An increased awareness of exploration through touch, movement, and mouthing
- An increased imitation of hand movements (including waving), mouth movements, and vocalizations

Outcome 3 Takes Appropriate Action to Meet Needs

- Uses gestures and vocalizations to request and refuse

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❖ *Communication skills that a 24 month old child is expected to have*

Outcome 1 Social-Emotional

- Imitates gestures, sounds, or words of others
- Initiates play and interactions with familiar adults through gestures or words
- Mostly parallel play but beginning to use associative play (sharing toys or commenting on the play of others)
- Starting to say “me” or “mine”
- Repeats actions and words of songs
- Expresses emotions through pretend play (happy, sad, angry)
- Participates in simple turn taking in simple conversations
- Demonstrates concern of others through gestures and facial expressions
- Directly interacts with adults to communicate enjoyment or desire for more (i.e. giggling, saying words, tapping someone)
- Talk or sign to themselves for comfort or enjoyment
- Beginning imaginative play such as pretending to be a dog or someone scary, and engaging in reciprocal play with an adult

Outcome 2 Acquiring and Using Knowledge and Skills

- Understands approximately 200 words
- Follows one step direction without needing gestures
- Communicates basic needs that are understood by people outside of their family
- Uses 2 to 3 word phrases or sentences
- Points to pictures in books when others name them
- Names pictures on their own
- Uses spoken words to ask for “more” and to request “help”
- Demonstrates an understanding of simple rules and prompts, such as “stop” (even though they will test limits and not always follow it)
- Role play adult activities often (i.e. sweeping the floor) and the language builds on top of it
- Starting to understand spatial concepts which leads to on/off, in/out, up/down, etc

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❖ *Communication skills that a 33 to 36 month old child is expected to have*

Outcome 1 Social-Emotional

- Seeks help and comfort from an adult with a gesture or word
- Interacts with adult to problem solve or communicate about experiences and ideas
- Engages in pretend play (i.e. driving a car or baking a cake)
- Seeks out adult to engage in play
- Participates in associative play (i.e. engaging in separate play while occasionally sharing toys or commenting on another child's play)
- Awareness of possession and ability to use simple pronouns (i.e. mine, your, me, etc)
- Uses simple words to express emotions (i.e. happy, sad, mad, etc)
- Follows simple rules most of the time
- Responds to others' prompts and questions
- Communicates wants and needs through gestures and spoken words
- Initiates communication with others, takes turns, and maintains the topic in simple conversations for at least 2 or 3 exchanges
- Engages and imitates songs, finger play, and hand movements, and fills in words in songs

Outcome 2 Acquiring and Using Knowledge and Skills

- Listens to a story and comments about main points
- Answers simple questions
- Listens to an adult's comment
- Follows novel two step directions
- Vocabulary of at least 100 words (spoken in English or primary language, signs, or pictures)
- Uses 2 to 3 syllable words that are easily understood
- Says 3 to 4 word phrases
- Beginning to ask simple questions
- Sings simple songs and lullabies
- Starting to develop simple adjectives (i.e. big/little) to compare and make associations with objects and events
- Starting to understand and use simple prepositions (i.e. on/off, up/down, in/out)

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❖ *Communication skills that an 18 month old child is expected to have*

Outcome 1 Social-Emotional

- Imitates adults to engage in role play involving routine daily activities (i.e. sweeping the floor, talking on the phone, etc)
- Uses gestures and/or vocalizations to seek help from preferred adults or to seek comfort when tired or hungry
- Participates in reciprocal play by taking turns with actions or vocalizations (i.e. patty cake, peek a boo, splashing, etc)
- Increased exploration of their environment with frequent check ins with familiar adults
- More aware of other children and will approach them for brief periods
- Occasionally imitates other children's actions
- Plays alone or engages in parallel play (playing next to but not directly involved with another child)
- Consistently looks at objects that an adult is using or pointing at
- Points in order to request an object
- Recognizes a routine song or phrase and associates it with a familiar activity (i.e. time to eat, clean up song, bed time, etc)
- Makes loud noises just for fun and then looks at a person to get a reaction
- Participates with hand movements paired with songs

Outcome 2 Acquiring and Using Knowledge and Skills

- Looks at what adult is pointing to – shared attention
- Looks at or gets familiar people and objects when they are named
- Follows simple one-step directions, especially if paired with a gesture
- Uses basic words or gestures to name objects, ask for what they want, and refuse
- Initiates a **minimum** of 25 words that familiar people can understand
- Combines two words or a word and a gesture for “two word combinations”
- Begins to use the pronouns “me” or “mine”
- Listens attentively to describing pictures in familiar books and short explanations of activities (i.e. We are going to papa's house. We're going to swim in his pool. And then we're gonna eat pizza.)
- Frequently imitate words that others say
- Demonstrates appropriate use of a wide variety of objects that are part of their daily routines (**at least 20**)