

Communication Skills Guide

This chart was compiled by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program of the Children's Hospital Boston at Waltham. Resources were gathered from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Gallaudet Language Curriculum guide.

Receptive Skills	Expressive Skills
Birth-3 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiets or smiles when interacted with. • Seems to recognize you and quiets if crying. 	Birth-3 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes pleasure sounds (cooing, etc.) • Cries differently for different needs. • Smiles when sees you
4-6 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moves eyes in direction of people. • Responds to changes in your facial expression. • Notices toys that are visually attractive. 	4-6 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including <i>p, b, m</i>. • Vocalizes excitement and displeasure.
7-12 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoys games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake. • Attends when signed/spoken to • Recognizes signs for common items like <i>cup, shoe, juice</i>. • Begins to respond to gestured requests (i.e., <i>come here</i>). 	7-12 months <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual/vocal babbling emerges. • Uses gestures or non-crying sounds to get and keep attention. • Imitates handshapes. • Has 1 or 2 words or signs (<i>bye-bye, dada, mama</i>) although they may not be clear.
1-2 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Points to a few body parts when asked. • Follows simple commands and understands simple questions (<i>Roll the ball, Where's your shoe?</i>) • Attends to simple stories. • Points to pictures in a book when named. 	1-2 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Says/signs more words every month. • Asks questions using 1-2 signs (<i>Where kitty? What's that?</i>). • Puts 2 signs/words together (<i>more cookie, no juice, mommy book</i>).
2-3 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands differences in meaning (<i>go-stop, big-little, up-down</i>). • Follows two requests (<i>Get the book and put it on the table</i>). 	2-3 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a word/sign for almost everything. • Uses phrases with 2-3 signs or words to talk about and ask for things. • Often asks for or directs attention to objects by naming them.
3-4 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands simple <i>who, what, where, why</i> questions. 	3-4 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicates about activities at school or at friends' homes. • Uses a lot of sentences that have 4 or more signs/words.
4-5 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pays attention to a short story and answers simple questions about it. 	4-5 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses sentences that give details (<i>I like to read my books</i>). • Tells stories that stick to topic. • Communicates easily with other children and adults.