Language Development


Milestones for Language Development

12-15 month old babies
  • Wave bye-bye
  • Say “mama”, “dada”, and one other word

15-18 month old babies
  • Use at least 3 other words besides “mama” and “dada”
  • Point to pictures or objects you name

2 year old
  • Says several single words
  • Uses simple phrases
  • Uses 2 to 4 word sentences

3 year old
  • Understands most of what is said and 75% of speech is understandable
  • Speaks in complete sentence of 3 to 5 words
  • Understands concepts of “now”, “soon”, and “later”

4 year old
  • Uses a 1,500 word vocabulary; speaks in relatively complex sentences
  • Understands number and space concepts - more, less, bigger, in, under, behind
  • Grasps the concept of past, present, and future but does not understand the duration of time

5 year old
  • Speaks fluently; correctly uses plurals, pronouns, tenses
  • Very interested in words and language; seeks knowledge
  • Understands and names opposites

Educational activities that encourage language

Books
Stacking toys (measuring cups, spoons, pots)
Puzzles
Blocks (various types and sizes)
Balls (various sizes)
Dress-up clothing
Kitchen set
Dolls and doll houses
Cars/trucks/trains
Farm set
Doctor/vet set
Water and sand tables and toys
Ride-on vehicles
Magnetic letters
Dry erase markers and board
Chalkboard and chalk
Playdough
Paint, crayons, paper, pens, markers
Meal times
Music, singing, and dancing

Correlation

Learning occurs during the back and forth interaction between staff (or parent) and child.

Introducing new vocabulary is key in developing greater language ability.