



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE  
THERAPY PRACTICE

## Expressive Language Development

What words and sentences should my child be using and at what ages?

Age	Expressive Language Level
0-3	Baby smiles when you come into view Baby repeats the same sound a lot Baby 'coos' and 'goos' when content Baby's cries differentiate to mean different things
4-6	Vocal play occurs Babbling starts to emerge Your baby can tell you using signs or gestures that they want something
7-12	Baby uses more consonants in their babbling Baby reaches for things that they want Baby uses their voice to get help or attention
12-24 (1-2 years)	Your child uses gestures like giving, showing and pointing Your child uses sounds and a few words to communicate Your child shows you things that interest them Your child's words become clearer Your child can imitate words you say Your child is learning new words every week
24-36 (2-3 years)	Your child's vocabulary has at least 50 words in its range Your child can now make simple sentences 'What's that?' 'go outside' Your child is starting to use some preposition words 'in' 'on' Your child is starting to use regular plurals 'flowers'
36-48 (3-4 years)	Your child's sentences are becoming longer – using 4+ words Your child is interested in talking about experiences and sharing stories Your child is starting to use simple forms of past and future tense Your child is increasing their use of describing words Your child is starting to ask lots of 'who' 'what' 'where' 'why' questions
48-60+ (4-5+ years)	Your child is starting to use different types of tense, regular past tense, third person present tense Your child uses language to make relationships and to explore Your child is beginning to have proper conversations with other children Your child can repair a communication breakdown 'I can't understand you' Your child is mainly using the correct grammar in sentences