



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE
THERAPY PRACTICE

Receptive Language Development

What should my child understand and respond to and at what age?

Age	Receptive Language Level
0-3	Baby turns to you when you speak Baby smiles when they hear your voice Baby recognizes your voice Baby will respond to comforting tones
4-6	Baby can respond to the word 'no' Baby is responsive to the changes of tone in your voice Baby can recognize sounds other than speech sounds Baby enjoys toys / activities where sound is involved
7-12	Baby listens when they are spoken to Baby turns and looks when their name is called Baby starts to recognize the names of familiar people and objects Baby begins to respond to simple requests 'give me' Baby begins to respond to simple questions 'more water?'
12-24 (1-2 years)	Your child's understanding of language is better than their talking Your child begins to point to pictures in a book when you name them Your child can point to body parts when asked Your child can follow simple instructions 'Come here' Your child can understand simple questions 'Where is Dolly?' Your child can listen to simple stories Your child enjoys songs and nursery rhymes
24-36 (2-3 years)	Your child will understand two-step commands 'Get your shoes and put them in your room' Your child now understands contrasting concepts – hot vs. cold / wet vs. dry Your child will notice environmental sounds – telephone ringing / doorbell
36-48 (3-4 years)	Your child will now understand 'who' questions Your child will now understand 'what' questions Your child will now understand 'where' questions Your child will now understand time concepts 'later' Your child will now understand more complicated instructions
48-60+ (4-5+ years)	Your child will enjoy story time and can answer simple questions relating to stories Your child now hears and understands nearly everything that is said to them Your child will now understand 'if' 'but' 'when' and 'why'