

## Language Development Milestones and Red Flags 6 months- 2 years old

### 6 months

Developmental Skills	Red Flags
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strings vowels together when babbling (“ah,” “eh,” “oh”)</li> <li>• Begins to say consonant sounds (e.g. “m,” “b”)</li> <li>• Likes taking turns with parent while making sounds (“vocal play”)</li> <li>• Responds to own name and other people’s emotions (e.g. can tell if parent is happy or mad)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn’t try to get things that are in reach</li> <li>• Shows no affection for caregivers</li> <li>• Doesn’t laugh or make squealing sounds</li> <li>• Doesn’t respond to sounds around him</li> <li>• Doesn’t make vowel sounds (“ah”, “eh”, “oh”)</li> <li>• Doesn’t roll over in either direction</li> <li>• Seems very floppy (like a doll) or very stiff with tight muscles</li> </ul>

### 9 months

Developmental Skills	Red Flags
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Babbles, make sounds like “mamamama”, “dadada”, “bababababa”</li> <li>• Understands the word “no”</li> <li>• Copies sounds and gestures of others</li> <li>• Uses finger to point for requesting or commenting</li> <li>• Watches the path of something (e.g. a toy) as it falls or looks for something you hide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn’t bear weight on legs with support</li> <li>• Doesn’t sit with help</li> <li>• Doesn’t babble (“mama”, “baba”, “dada”)</li> <li>• Doesn’t play any games involving back-and-forth play</li> <li>• Doesn’t respond to own name</li> <li>• Doesn’t seem to recognize familiar people</li> <li>• Doesn’t look where you point</li> </ul>

### 12 months

Developmental Skills	Red Flags
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responds to simple spoken requests</li> <li>• Uses simple gestures, like shaking head “no” or waving “bye-bye”</li> <li>• Makes sounds with changes in tone (starting to sound more like speech)</li> <li>• Repeats sounds or actions to get attention</li> <li>• Plays games such as “peek-a-boo”</li> <li>• Says “mama” and “dada” and exclamations like “uh-oh!”</li> <li>• Tries to imitate words you say</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn’t crawl</li> <li>• Can’t stand when supported</li> <li>• Doesn’t search for things that she sees you hide</li> <li>• Doesn’t point to request or comment</li> <li>• Doesn’t imitate gestures like waving or shaking head</li> <li>• Doesn’t say at least 1 word (e.g. “mama” or “dada”, “milk”, etc.)</li> <li>• Loses skills he once had</li> </ul>

**18 months**

Developmental Skills	Red Flags
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Says at least 30 word</li> <li>• Says and shakes head for “no”</li> <li>• Knows what ordinary things are for, like phone, brush, spoon, bottle, etc.</li> <li>• Points to one body part</li> <li>• Symbolic play skills emerge, such as pretending to feed or bathe a doll, pretending to race a car around a track</li> <li>• Points to get the attention of others</li> <li>• Can follow 1-step verbal commands without any gestures; for example, sits when you say “sit down”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn’t point to show things to others</li> <li>• Doesn’t walk</li> <li>• Doesn’t know what familiar things are for</li> <li>• Doesn’t understand instructions or what parents say</li> <li>• Doesn’t copy gross motor movements or language (e.g. wheels on the bus song)</li> <li>• Shows repetitive play skills (e.g. lining up cars, being fixated on a particular object or toy)</li> <li>• Doesn’t gain new words weekly</li> <li>• Loses skills he once had</li> </ul>

**24 months**

Developmental Skills	Red Flags
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Says at least 50 words</li> <li>• Points to things or pictures when they are named</li> <li>• Says short sentences with 2 to 4 words (e.g. daddy sit, I want cookie, Give me bubbles)</li> <li>• Knows names of familiar people and body parts</li> <li>• Plays next to other children and beginning to include other children in games (e.g., chase)</li> <li>• Follows simple instructions</li> <li>• Repeats words overheard in conversation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doesn’t know what to do with common objects, like a brush, phone, fork, spoon, etc.</li> <li>• Doesn’t imitate and copy gross motor movements (e.g. actions) or language (e.g. words he hears, songs he is exposed to)</li> <li>• Doesn’t follow simple instructions</li> <li>• Doesn’t produce 2-word phrases (for example, “drink milk”, “sleep bed”)</li> <li>• Doesn’t walk steadily</li> <li>• Loses skills she once had</li> </ul>

**Source:** the CDC- CARING FOR YOUR BABY AND YOUNG CHILD: BIRTH TO AGE 5, Fifth Edition, 2009.

*If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s language development or would like to complete a language screening/evaluation, please contact: Moran Lev-Ary, M.S., CCC-SLP at [speakupbilingualslp@gmail.com](mailto:speakupbilingualslp@gmail.com)*