

## What to expect at different ages

### 6 months +

- Responds to different tones of voice
- Can wave 'bye bye'
- Appears to recognise names of family members
- Babbles for attention
- Laughs and squeals
- Enjoys games such as 'peek-a-boo' and 'pat-a-cake'
- Will turn to mum's voice across the room
- Will put objects into mouth, hit and shake them.



### 12 months +

- Knows own name
- Understands simple commands like 'no', 'clap hands'
- First words develop (5 or more)
- Can find a toy hidden out of sight
- Begins to relate objects e.g. puts the spoon in the cup, brushes own hair



### 18 months – 2 ½ years

- Will point to several parts of the body and various items of clothing/objects e.g. hair, nose, ball, sock, spoon
- Understands action words (verbs) such as 'sit down, drink, come here, sleep'
- Understand pronouns such as 'me, my, your, him'
- Imitates frequently heard 2-3 word sentences
- Imitates sounds such as cars, animals during play
- Follows simple instructions e.g. 'give me the cup'
- By 2 ½ years can use 3-4 words in a sentence
- Asks questions 'What's that?'
- Names objects such as ball, sock, cup
- Uses one pronoun – me, my, mine, you



## 2 ½ years – 3 ½ years

- Understands use of objects e.g. 'show me what you can ride' – 'a bike'
- Understands describing words e.g. big, little, wet
- Understands pronouns – he, she, they
- Uses 4-5 words in a sentence
- Can answer 'what, where, yes/no questions
- Understands negatives
- Can group objects such as food, animals etc
- Identifies colours
- Can describe an object
- Answers questions logically
- Uses several pronouns in speech e.g. I, he, she, we, they



## 3 ½ years – 5 years

- Answers 'when' questions
- Indicates body parts such as head, knee, arm
- Compares objects
- Understands complex instructions
- Understands time concepts
- Understands numbers
- Understands prepositions e.g. under, behind, next to, in front of
- Can describe an activity e.g. getting dressed, making a sandwich
- Responds to 'why' questions
- Names members of categories
- Repeats complex sentences
- Uses prepositions (e.g. on, in, under)



## 5 years – 7 years

- Understands time and sequence concepts
- Uses adjectives to describe people and objects
- Uses words that express quantity e.g. whole, half
- Defines words e.g. what is telephone?
- Can add and subtract numbers to five
- Can retell a story with visual support
- Uses plurals e.g. tooth-teeth, man-men
- Understands time concepts such as Autumn, Summer
- Indicates body parts such as wrist, heel, ankle
- Uses words that express quantity e.g. empty, full