

Stages of Auditory Development

Birth through three years of age

Birth to 3 months

- Recognizes and quiets to familiar voices
- Moro reflex; Startles or jumps in response to sudden loud sounds such as pot falling, telephone ringing, dog barking;
- Awakens to loud sounds (door knock, car horn, lawn mower)
- Makes cooing sounds; vowel sounds such as “ooh” and “aah”

3 to six months

- Awakens to sounds or speech
- Turns head toward noise toys and interesting sounds (singing, bell, finger snap, music)
- Makes a variety of sounds “baba” and “gaga”
- Babbles frequently and for pleasure; initial reciprocal talking

6 to 12 months

- Understands first words such as “bye-bye,” “shoe,” “bottle,” “no,” “up”
- Responds to his or her name from across the room
- Enjoys making and hearing sounds produced from rattles and similar toys
- Coos and moves to music
- Imitates speech with non-speech sounds
- Plays with voice repetition and varied patterns; “la, la, la, la,” “ga,ba,boo,ba”

12 to 18 months

- Says first words such as “more,” “milk,” “kitty,” and “cracker”
- Responds to names of favorite toys by pointing to them when asked
- Responds to sounds coming from across the room
- Points to Mommy/Daddy/sibling when named
- Turns head quickly toward loud or soft sounds presented on both sides
- Uses six to 10 words by 12 months
- Understands routine expressions (“Where is your bottle?” or “Let’s change your diaper”)

18 to 24 months

- Uses a spoken vocabulary of approximately 20 words (by 18 months)
- Speaks using two word phrases, “more cracker” or “Daddy working”
- Understands simple “yes” and “no” questions
- Recognizes and names environmental sounds (doorbell, microwave, telephone)
- Refers to self by name
- Follows simple directions (“Get your shoe” or “Bring me your sock”)

24 months to 3 years

- Uses a spoken vocabulary of approximately 270 words by 24 months, 1000 words by three years
- Enjoys conversations; speaks to communicate needs, wants and experiences
- Understands most of what is said to him or her in conversations (without cues or gestures)