

Speech & Language Milestones: 12 months

Understanding/Listening:

- turns and looks in the direction of sounds.
- looks when you point.
- turns when you call their name.
- understanding words for common items and people- words like, cup, truck, juice, mommy, daddy and baby.
- starts to respond to simple words and phrases such as "no", "come here", and "want more?"
- plays games with you, like peek-a-boo, and pat-a-cake.
- listens to songs and stories for a short time.

Speaking:

- babbles long strings of sounds, like mimi upup babababa.
- uses sounds and gestures to get and keep attention.
- points to objects and shows them to others.
- uses gestures like waving bye, reaching for "up," and shaking his head no.
- imitates different speech sounds.
- says 1 or 2 words, like hi, dog, dada, mama, or uh-oh. This will happen around their first birthday, but sounds may not be clear.

Social Skills & Play:

- prefers looking at human face and eyes.
- prefers listening to human voice.
- looks for the source of voice.
- differentiates between tones of voice (e.g., angry, friendly).
- smiles back at the caregiver.
- follows the caregiver's gaze.
- participates in pre-verbal vocal turn-taking with the caregiver.
- vocalizes to get attention.
- demonstrates joint attention skills (sharing attention).
- uses gestures to make requests and direct attention.
- plays simple interactive games, such as peekaboo.
- seeks comfort or a safe haven from the caregiver.
- expresses feelings.
- develops object permanence.
- discriminates facial expressions.
- fears strangers.
- develops relational memory (faces/voices).
- changes behavior to achieve a goal.
- imitates gestures or oral movements.



Note to Caregivers:

Here you will find the expected milestones for children up to 12 months of age. Please remember children do develop at different rates. However, if you have any concerns, reach out feel free to reach out to a speech therapist. This will allow you the opportunity to speak with someone who can either offer a screening or ease your mind.

References:

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.-a). Birth to One Year. <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/01/>
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Social Communication Benchmarks. <https://www.asha.org/practice-portal/clinical-topics/social-communication-disorder/social-communication-benchmarks/>



More questions or concerns. Contact us at: Our Speech Garden, LLC
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