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## **Speech and Language Milestones**

### **12-24 Months**

#### **12-18 Months**

##### **Comprehension (Child's Understanding of Spoken Language)**

- Shows interest in rhymes and songs
- Listens to adult reading a picture book
- Identifies 3 body parts
- Recognizes or identifies common objects, familiar people, and pictures when named
- Retrieves familiar item from another room
- Follows one-step commands (e.g., "Give me")
- Understands at least 50 words
- Understands simple questions (e.g., "Want up?" "More?" "Where ball go?")

##### **Production (Child's Verbal Language Skills)**

- Says or imitates 15 words and simple phrases
- Imitates intonation patterns
- Imitates at least 3 animal sounds
- Names 5-7 familiar objects upon request
- Initiates and maintains play and vocal interactions
- Uses words or words and gestures to express self and meet wants/needs
- Overgeneralizes the meaning of specific words (e.g., "puppy" for all four-legged animals)

#### **18-24 Months**

##### **Comprehension (Child's Understanding of Spoken Language)**

- Identifies 6 body parts and clothing items
- Identifies 5 familiar pictures and objects (e.g., photos of familiar people, household objects)
- Understands basic pronouns (e.g., mine, me, you)
- Understands a few common category titles (e.g., food, clothes, toys)
- Understands some actions (e.g., "come here," "sit down," "go fast")
- Chooses 1 object from a group of five
- Follows two-step commands with one object (e.g., "Bounce the ball and roll it")

##### **Production (Child's Verbal Language Skills)**

- Uses single words and 2-word phrases frequently
- Imitates and uses some 3-word phrases
- Engages in adult-like conversations through intonation and turn taking
- Refers to self using own name
- Produces 50-200 words by 24 months
- Pretends to dance to music or play instrument
- Begins to relate recent experiences from past
- Uses more words and less gestures to interact

#### **Red Flags**

- Does not use at least 50 words/word approximations
- Does not point to familiar pictures or objects when named
- Does not combine words to form phrases (e.g., "Car go" or "Mommy up")
- Does not imitate actions or words (e.g., animal sounds)

*\*\*If your child does not meet most of these milestones by 24 months, consider scheduling a speech-language evaluation.*