

## STAGES OF HEARING, LANGUAGE, AND SPEECH DEVELOPMENT FROM BIRTH TO 5 YEARS CHECKLIST

**Please use this checklist!** Look at your checklist often. Find your child's age level. Check Yes or No for every item.  
If your child does not pass any two items within an age level, call your doctor to make an appointment.

Age Level	Hearing and Understanding	Check One	Speech	Check One
Birth to 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gives a startle response to loud, sudden noises within 3 feet.</li> <li>Calms to a familiar, friendly voice.</li> <li>Wakes up when you speak or make noise nearby.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coos and gurgles.</li> <li>Laughs and uses voice when playing.</li> <li>Watches your face when spoken to.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3 to 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looks to see where sounds come from.</li> <li>Becomes frightened by an angry voice.</li> <li>Smiles when spoken to.</li> <li>Likes to play with toys or objects that make noise.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Babbles (uses a series of sounds).</li> <li>Makes at least 4 different sounds when using his or her voice.</li> <li>Babbles to people when they speak.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
6 to 9 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Turns and looks to you when you are speaking in a quiet voice.</li> <li>Waves when you say "bye-bye."</li> <li>Stops for a moment when you say "no-no."</li> <li>Looks at objects or pictures when someone talks about them.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Babbles using "song-like tunes."</li> <li>Uses voice to get your attention instead of crying.</li> <li>Uses different sounds and appears to be naming things.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
9 to 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Points to or looks at familiar objects or people when asked to.</li> <li>Looks sad when scolded.</li> <li>Follows directions ("Open your mouth," "Give me the ball").</li> <li>"Dances" and makes sounds to music.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses jargon (appears to be talking).</li> <li>Uses consonant sounds like b, d, g, m, and n when talking.</li> <li>Jabbers in response to a human voice, changes loudness of voice, and uses rhythm and tone.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>NOTE: Be aware that babies between 12 to 15 months old say their first true words.</b>				
12 to 18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Points to body parts (hair, eyes, nose, mouth) when asked to.</li> <li>Brings objects to you when asked.</li> <li>Hears and identifies sounds coming from another room or from outside.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gives one-word answers to questions.</li> <li>Imitates many new words.</li> <li>Uses words of more than one syllable with meaning ("bottle").</li> <li>Speaks 10 to 20 words.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
18 to 24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understands simple "yes/no" questions.</li> <li>Understands simple phrases with prepositions ("in the cup").</li> <li>Enjoys being read to and points to pictures when asked.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses his or her own first name.</li> <li>Uses "my" to get toys and other objects.</li> <li>Tells experiences using jargon and words.</li> <li>Uses 2-word sentences like "my shoes," "go bye-bye," "more juice."</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Age Level	Hearing and Understanding	Check One	Speech	Check One
24 to 30 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understands negative statements ("no more," "not now").</li> <li>Selects objects according to size (big, little).</li> <li>Follows simple directions ("Get your shoes and socks").</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Answers questions ("What do you do when you are sleepy?").</li> <li>Uses plural words (2 books, dogs).</li> <li>Speaks 100 to 200 words.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
30 to 36 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understands uses of objects ("Show me what goes on your foot").</li> <li>Understands the concept of one and can hand you one of something (1 ball, 1 cookie).</li> <li>Correctly identifies boys and girls.</li> <li>Understands many action words like "run" or "jump."</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses question forms correctly (who? what? where? when?).</li> <li>Uses negative forms ("It is not," "I can't").</li> <li>Relates experiences using 4- to 5-word sentences.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
3 to 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understands "why" questions ("Why do you wash your hands?").</li> <li>Understands opposites like "fast" or "slow."</li> <li>Correctly selects objects according to color.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Uses different forms of action words ("I play," "I want to play," "We played").</li> <li>Counts to 10.</li> <li>Tells you about pictures in books or about a drawing ("I made a purple flower").</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
4 to 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understands size comparisons (big, bigger, biggest).</li> <li>Understands many pronouns ("Give it to her," "Give it to him").</li> <li>Follows a 2- to 3-step command ("Go to the kitchen, get a cup, put it on the table").</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Speaks at least 1,500 words.</li> <li>Says most sounds correctly except possibly "s" and "th."</li> <li>Talks freely to family and friends using full sentences that most people can understand.</li> </ul>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

### Do you hear me?

This may be the most important question you ever answer for your baby.

- Babies learn to talk during their first years. Words help them share thoughts and feelings with the important people in their world.
- As your baby hears words, language and learning begin and speech develops.
- The checklist on the other side shows you how learning helps the speech development of your child.
- Watch your child grow through stages of normal hearing and speech development. Seek help immediately if your child is not developing according to the checklist.

### What can you do?

- Some children are born with normal hearing and become hearing impaired later. That is why you must continue to fill out the Checklist.
- If your child has a hearing loss, she or he will not outgrow it.
- If you think your child has a hearing problem, **Do not delay.** Seek help **immediately.**

### NOW...

- You know your child best. If you suspect a possible hearing loss, talk to your doctor about getting a hearing test.
- Call the TEHDI Program toll-free at **1-800-252-8023, ext. 7726** if you have any questions.  
Email: [audiology@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:audiology@dshs.state.tx.us)  
Website: [www.dshs.state.tx.us/tehdi](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/tehdi)