

Language Development 2-3 years		
2 years	 Expressive language uses two-three word combinations, e.g. 'mummy go pool' begins to use grammar, eg. cooking. sentences are not always grammatically correct 'Daddy go car' talks about here and now asks "what" and "where" questions uses more words for different purposes (names, requests, refusal, location, possession, actions) Receptive language follows longer instructions 'get the ball and throw it to me' understands place 'in and on' can find pictures or objects described (by shape or function), e.g. 'which one do you sleep in? 	 Speak in short, simple sentences Repeat what your child says and add different types of words (e.g. colours, describing words, pronouns, actions words) to it Child: Cookie! Parent: Big cookie! Your cookie! Model correct use of grammar when speaking Child: Bus drive Adult: The bus is driving! Keep learning opportunities fun Refer to a speech pathologist if your child is: not talking or only using single words not following instructions cannot answer questions appropriately

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Speech Pathology Occupational Therapy

3 years

Expressive language

- half of sentences are grammatically correct
- uses more grammar, e.g. past tense verbs, plurals, pronouns
- sentences are longer e.g. 'I have a truck'
- talks easily with adults and children
- can tell a short story

Receptive language

- follows long commands 'stand up, come here and give me the doll!'
- understands feelings
- understands size concepts (e.g. big, little)
- understands some time concepts (e.g. later, soon)
- can answer "where", "what", "why" questions

- Encourage language development by reading books. While reading:
 - o Point to and name the objects in the pictures
 - Describe the pictures using short sentences
 - Ask different types of questions about the book "e.g. What colour? Where is...?"
 - Talk about the sounds in the words
- Refer to a speech pathologist if:
 - child's sentences are only 2-3 words in length
 - child does not respond to questions appropriately
 - child does not appear to follow what you say



References

www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/milestones

Introduction to Child Development – Second edition. Scott McLaughlin – 2007

The Rossetti Infant-Toddler Language Scale: a Measure of Communication and Interaction – by Louis Rossetti – 1990

The Hanen Program – It takes two to talk. Jan Pepper and Elaine Weitzman, 2004

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