

 **TABLE 11.1** Milestones for Acquiring Language

Age Range	Milestones in Language Development	
By Age 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognizes name • Says first words • Imitates familiar words (echolalia) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands simple instructions • Recognizes words as symbols for objects: hears “ball”—points to ball
Between 1 and 2 Years of Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands “no” • Uses 10 to 20 words, including names • Combines two words such as “Daddy bye-bye” • Waves good-bye and plays pat-a-cake • Makes the “sounds” of familiar animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives a toy when asked • Uses words such as “more” to make wants known • Points to his or her toes, eyes, and nose • Brings object from another room when asked
Between 2 and 3 Years of Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies body parts • Carries on “conversation” with self and dolls • Asks “What’s that?” and “Where’s my?” • Uses two-word negative phrases such as “No want” • Forms some plurals by adding “s”: “book,” “books” • Has a 450-word vocabulary • Gives first name, holds up fingers to tell age • Combines nouns and verbs: “Mommy go” • Understands simple time concepts: “last night,” “tomorrow” • Refers to self as “me” rather than by name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tries to get adult attention: “Watch me” • Likes to hear same story repeated • May say “no” when means “yes” • Talks to other children as well as adults • Solves problems by talking instead of hitting or crying • Answers “where” questions • Names common pictures and things • Uses short sentences like “Me want more” or “Me want cookie,” matches 3–4 colors, knows big and little
Between 3 and 4 Years of Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can tell a story • Has sentence length of 4–5 words • Has a vocabulary of nearly 1,000 words • Names at least one color • Understands “yesterday,” “summer,” “lunchtime,” “tonight,” “little/big” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins to obey requests like “Put the block under the chair” • Knows his or her last name, name of street on which he or she lives, and several nursery rhymes
Between 4 and 5 Years of Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has sentence length of 4–5 words • Uses past tense correctly • Has a vocabulary of nearly 1,500 words • Points to colors red, blue, yellow, and green • Identifies triangles, circles, and squares 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands “in the morning,” “next,” “noontime” • Can speak of imaginary conditions such as “I hope” • Asks many questions, including “Who?” and “Why?”
Between 5 and 6 Years of Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a sentence length of 5–6 words • Has a vocabulary of around 2,000 words • Defines objects by their use (you eat with a fork) and can tell what objects are made of • Knows spatial relations like “on top,” “behind,” “far,” and “near” • Knows his or her address • Identifies a penny, nickel, and dime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knows common opposites like “big/little” • Understands “same” and “different” • Counts 10 objects • Asks questions for information • Distinguishes left and right hand • Uses all types of sentences—for example, “Let’s go to the store after we eat”

NOTE: Some variation in reaching developmental milestones is common.

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