

Stages of Oral Language Development

- Stage 1. Smiles socially; imitates facial expressions; coos; cries; babbles; plays with sounds; develops intonation; and repeats syllables (Infants).
- Stage 2. Responds to specific songs; uses two-word sentences; depends on intonation and gesture; understands simple questions; models sound heard; hears, points, and names the objects in pictures (18 months to 2 years).
- Stage 3. Uses pronouns and prepositions; the word "No"; remembers the names of objects, and generalizes. There is a high interest in language and an increase in communication. There is a large jump in vocabulary growth and articulation from Stage 2 levels (2- and 3-years old).
- Stage 4. Communicates needs; asks questions; begins to enjoy humor; has better articulation; begins to have real conversations; responds to directional commands; knows parts of songs; can retell a story; speaks in three- and four-word sentences; is acquiring the rules of grammar and learns sophisticated words heard in adult conversation (3- and 4-years old).
- Stage 5. Vastly expanded vocabulary; uses irregular noun and verb forms; talks with adults on an adult level using four to eight word sentences; giggles over nonsense words; engages in imaginative play using complex oral scripts; tells longer stories; recounts in-sequence the day's events and uses silly and profane language to experiment and shock the listener (4, 5, and 6 year old).