

Vocabulary

A child's expressive vocabulary grows rapidly from the time of his first word at approximately 12 months, through first grade. Vocabulary increases throughout an individual's lifetime due to education, reading, and life experiences.

Age	Approximate Words in Expressive Vocabulary
12 months	2 to 6 words other than <i>mama</i> and <i>dada</i>
15 months	10
18 months	50
24 months	200-300
30 months	450
36 months (3 years)	1,000
42 months	1,200
48 months (4 years)	1,600
54 months	1,900
60 months (5 years)	2,200-2,500
6 years	2,600-7,000
12 years	50,000

We'd like to thank the following sources from which we obtained information for this section: the Child Development Institute (www.childdevelopmentinfo.com); Nicolosi, Harryman, & Kresheck (2006); and Owens (1996). For more information, please see the References, Websites, & Resources list on pages 22-24.

Questions

In language development, a child must be able to ask and answer questions in order to navigate a conversation and to seek and relay information. When assessing a child's ability to ask and answer questions, it is important to separate her content knowledge from her ability to ask or answer questions.

Answering Questions

Age	Milestones
1 – 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looks in the appropriate place when asked a simple question, such as "Where is Daddy?"• Chooses an object with intentionality when asked about a choice of two, such as "Do you want milk or juice?"

Vocabulary

From the time of his first word at age 1, vocabulary increases throughout childhood, and life experiences.

Words in Expressive Vocabulary

Other than *mama* and *dada*

Information from which we obtained information for this table is from the website (www.childdevelopmentinfo.com); see Owens (1996). For more information, see sources list on pages 22-24.

Answering Questions, continued

Age	Milestones
1 – 2 years, continued	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers "where" questions, such as "Where's the ball?" by pointing to the pictured item in a book Answers "What's this?" questions about familiar objects or pictures such as <i>cookie</i> or <i>baby</i> Answers "yes/no" questions, possibly with a head nod or shake
2 – 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Points to objects when described, such as "What do you wear on your head?" Answers simple <i>wh</i>- questions logically Answers critical thinking questions, such as "What do you do when you are cold?" Answers questions such as "Where...?," "What's that?," "What's ... doing?," "Who is...?" Answers or understands "Can you...?" questions
3 – 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers more complex questions logically, such as "who," "why," "where," and "how" Answers "If...what?" questions, such as "If it starts raining, what would you do?" Answers questions about functions of objects, such as "What are spoons for?," "Why do we have shoes?"
4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Answers "when" questions Answers "how many" questions (in which the answer does not exceed four)

Questions

Children are able to ask and answer questions to seek and relay information. When asking questions, it is important to separate asking and answer questions.

Milestones

Child is able to ask a simple question, such as "Where is the ball?"
 Child shows intentionality when asked about a choice, such as "Do you want milk or juice?"

Asking Questions

Age	Milestones
1 – 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starts to use question forms, beginning with "What's that?" Uses rising intonation
2 – 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asks simple ego-centric questions, such as "Where's the cookie?" Asks "Where...?," "What...?," "What...doing?" questions
3 – 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asks one-word "why" questions Uses "what," "where," "when," "how," and "whose" when asking questions Asks "is" questions Inverts auxiliary and subject in <i>wh</i>- questions, such as "Where is dad going?"

Asking Questions, continued

4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asks the following types of questions using correct grammatical structure: Early Infinitive: "Do you want to...?" Future: "Are we going to ...?" Modal can/may: "Can you...?"
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We'd like to thank the following sources from which we obtained information for this section: AutismInfo (www.autisminfo.com/milestones.htm#C); Beyond Therapy (http://centralfftherapy.com/?page_id=123 and http://centralfftherapy.com/?page_id=130); the Child Development Institute (www.childdevelopmentinfo.com); Nicolosi, Haryman, & Kresheck (2006); and Touhy, Brown, & Mercer-Moseley (2001). For more information, please see the full Reference, Websites, & Resources list on pages 22-24.

Listening

Listening to something is not the same as hearing it. Listening skills involve a child's ability to attend to and process what he hears. These skills are integral components of a child's speech and language, social, and academic development.

Age	Milestones
Birth – 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discriminates speech from non-speech sounds Startles to loud sounds Quiets or excites in response to novel sounds Recognizes a primary caregiver's voice Smiles or quiets when spoken to Decreases or increases sucking behavior in response to sounds
3 – 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moves eyes in direction of sounds Discriminates friendly and angry voices Reacts to changes in tone of voice Attends to music and toys that make sounds Listens to a speaker and watches a speaker's face when spoken to
6 – 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responds to sound when a source is not visible Responds physically to music Stops an activity when name is called Recognizes words for common items Listens with increased interest to new words Begins to respond to simple requests, such as "Sit here"
1 – 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follows one-step directions with cues Understands simple questions, such as "Where's Daddy?" Points to named pictures in a book Follows directions to find two familiar objects Listens to simple stories