

SPEECH LANGUAGE MILESTONES: THE FIRST YEAR

Language & Play Dates

BIRTH TO 3 MONTHS

- Visual Attention increases-Child begins responding (looking) at things they see, hear, or feel
- Social Engagement Begins- child begins to laugh, smile, coo to **respond** to you playing and talking
- Startles at loud sounds
- Cries change for different needs

3 MONTHS TO 6 MONTHS

- Moves eyes to find sounds
- pays attention to music
- Recognizes differences in tone of voice
- Coosing (using vowel sounds)
- Laughing- to show happiness/pleasure
- Vocal Play (clicks, raspberries, squeals, gurgles)

6 MONTHS TO 12 MONTHS

- Responds to their name (looks at you)
- Understands everyday objects (cup, shoe, mamma)
- Begins babbling (bababa or badagaba)
- Says 1-2 words like dada, uh-oh, mama
- Uses sounds/gestures to get attention
- Points to objects to show them to others

WAYS TO ENCOURAGE

- Respond to your child- Look, talk, imitate sounds, actions, and facial expressions
- Read to your child daily
- Talk about the who, what, and where of your day
- Play with gestures (clapping, waving, etc.)
- Pay attention to ear problems/infections