

## What Parents Have Reported About Their Child's Communication on our Measures

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We have gathered information from hundreds of children in the Tallahassee area thanks to the help of many healthcare and childcare providers. Following is a summary of the preliminary developmental patterns that we have found based on parent report with our Checklist and Caregiver Questionnaire. Skills that were reported by at least 80% of the parents are listed to characterize what to expect from young children.

**Early communication is rooted in the expression of emotion and use of eye gaze. Sharing emotion and attention is a critical milestone in learning to talk. Most parents report their child:**

- ✓ lets them know when happy versus upset before 8 months of age
- ✓ smiles while looking at them and looks at them to see if they are watching when playing with toys by 9 months

**Children learn the power of communication before they learn to talk. Communicating to get others to do things and to draw others' attention to things are important milestones in learning to talk. Most parents report their child:**

- ✓ lets them know that he/she needs help or wants an object out of reach by 9 months
- ✓ gets them to notice interesting objects by 12 months

**Children use gestures before they use words. Most parents report their child:**

- ✓ gives objects, shows objects and waves by 11 months
- ✓ points to objects and uses at least 6 conventional gestures by 12 months
- ✓ nods their head to indicate yes by 20 months

**A child's ability to use sounds is the strongest predictor of language skills a year later. Most parents report their child:**

- ✓ uses sounds to get attention or help by 8 to 9 months
- ✓ uses 1 or 2 consonants and sometimes strings consonant sounds together by 9 months
- ✓ uses at least 3 consonant sounds by 12 months, and at least 6 sounds by 20 months

**Children usually understand more words than they can say. Most parents report their child:**

- ✓ often looks or turns toward them when they call their child's name by 9 months
- ✓ understands (without gestures) at least 4 words by 12 months, 18 words by 16 months, and 30 words by 22 months, from a list of the 36 most common early words

**Children usually use their first word around their first birthday and can use dozens before their second birthday. As children's vocabulary grows, they begin to combine words and are on their way to constructing sentences. Most parents report their child:**

- ✓ uses 1 to 3 words by his/her first birthday
- ✓ uses 1 word by 12 months, 5 words by 14 months, 10 words by 18 months, and 21 words by 22 months, from a list of the 36 most common early words
- ✓ puts two words together by 22 months

**Knowing how to use objects helps children learn the names of objects. Many of the most common first words are names for objects that the child uses. Most parents report their child:**

- ✓ uses 1 object by 9 months, 3 objects by 12 months, 7 objects by 16 months, and 9 objects by 22 months, from a list of 10 common objects
- ✓ stacks 2 blocks by 16 months, and 3 or 4 blocks by 22 months
- ✓ pretends with toys by 18 months