

# Speech & Language Milestones

Birth to 24 months



## LANGUAGE

### Birth to 5 months

- Recognize caregiver voice
- Vocalizes pleasure and displeasure sounds differently
- Responds to caregivers' facial expressions and speech

### 6 to 11 months

- Babbles "bababa, mama, dada" without meaning
- Understands words for common objects
- Attempts communication via gestures
- Attempts to repeat sounds
- Says first word 10-12 months

### 12 to 17 months

- Answers simple questions nonverbally
- Tries to imitate simple words
- Vocabulary of 4-6 words

### 18 to 23 months

- Vocabulary of 50 words
- Pronunciation is often unclear
- Makes animal sounds
- Starting to combine words
- Begins to use pronoun "mine"

## SPEECH

### Stages of Vocalizations

- **0-2 months** Reflexive Vocalizations (crying)
- **2 – 4 months** Vowel-like cooing and laughter
- **5-8 months** : Vocal Play– Increased variety of sounds and syllable-like vocalization
- **8-12 months:** Reduplicated babbling (ma-ma, ba-ba, etc); Variegated babbling (i.e ma-ta-pa); Jargon (Complex babbling that sounds like adult speech)

## Feeding and Oral Function

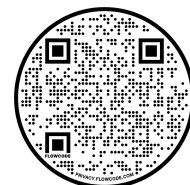
### Early Feeding Milestones

- **2-3 months** gaining control of sucking reflex
- **4-6 months** Increased hand-to-mouth play
- **5-6 months** introduced to pureed foods / introduction of cup and straw
- **8-10 months** munching pattern of soft foods
- **10-12 months** starting to move foods to side molars area; uses fingers to self-feed
- **12-14 months** uses two hands to hold cup; chews and swallows firmer foods
- **14-16 months** efficient finger feeding
- **18-24 months** increasing utensil use independently

Milestones :  
<https://www.stanfordchildrens.org/ASHA.org>, Mitchell, P. *Prelinguistic Vocal Development*;  
<https://sosapproachtofeeding.com/de>

Horizons Therapy Services  
1291 Winter Garden  
Vineland Rd. STE 240  
Winter Garden, FL 34787

**WEB:** [Horizontherapyservices.com](http://Horizontherapyservices.com)  
**PHONE:** 407.801.3113  
**FAX:** 407.588.9013  
**Email:**  
[info@horizontherapyservices.com](mailto:info@horizontherapyservices.com)



Follow Us  
on  
Instagram!