

Language Development Stages

Age	Listening Skills	Spoken English Receptive Language	Spoken English Expressive Language	ASL Receptive Language	ASL Expressive Language
0-3 months	startles to loud sounds quiets to familiar voices	smiles when spoken to responds by looking at the speaker's face	makes cooing noises cries differently for different needs	responds by looking at the signer's face smiles when signed to	makes facial expressions
3-6 months	turns eyes/head towards sound notices toys that make sound	responds to change in tone of voice	making speech-like sounds uses vocal play vocalizes excitement and displeasure	turns eyes/head towards signer notices toys that make movement	imitates signer's facial expression babbling with hands
6-9 months	responds to "no" and their name responds to singing and music	comprehends "no" enjoys peek-a-boo looks at objects when named	imitates intonation of others uses many sound combinations	comprehends "no" looks at objects when pointed at	imitates signing of others babbling with hands a lot
9-12 months	understands simple words turns head to soft sounds	understands up to 10 words understands 1 simple command	uses first true word uses all consonant and vowels in vocal play	understands simple sign words reacts to simple command	uses first true sign word points to people, objects and places
12-18 months	understands new words each week follows simple spoken instructions	understands up to 200 words -understands simple questions/commands points to body parts when named	uses 1 word phrases vocabulary of 10-50 words (50% nouns)	acquires up to 200 signs reacts to simple questions/commands finds things in the environment when named	uses at least 10 signs uses points as pronouns
18-24 months	listens to simple stories or songs points to pictures in a book when named	understands grammatical use verbs, location, and possession	uses 1-2 word phrases and questions ("where"/"what") -vocabulary of 10-50 words	understands categories such as "food" and "clothes" listens to simple stories	uses simple 2-or 3-word sentences expands vocabulary more than 250 words uses non-manual signals: YES/NO-questions with raised eyebrows and WH-questions with frown eyebrows

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2-3 years	<p>follows 2 steps spoken instructions</p> <p>listens to longer stories</p>	<p>understands 2400-3600 words</p> <p>understands basic sequencing of events</p>	<p>uses 2-4 word phrases</p> <p>uses basic grammatical structures (is, are, was, were, past tense -ed, -ing, negation)</p>	<p>understands basic syntax (can follow discourse that contains more than one idea)</p> <p>shows interest in explanations of "why" things are and "how" things function</p>	<p>uses classifiers to represent objects</p> <p>uses inflected verb forms (directional & temporal aspect)</p> <p>demonstrates negation with headshake</p> <p>uses 3-4 sign phrases</p>
3-4 years	<p>hears you when call from another room</p>	<p>understands up to 4200-5600 words -understands concept of opposites</p>	<p>uses 3-5 word phrases</p> <p>answers who, what, where, and why question explanations</p> <p>follows two steps commands</p>	<p>asks for detailed</p> <p>uses noun and verb sign modifications</p> <p>uses distinctions between nounverb pairs (FLY/ AIRPLANE)</p>	<p>uses WH-questions include "for-for," "how," and "which"</p>
4-5 years	<p>pays attention to short stories and answers simple questions</p> <p>understands most of what is said at home and at school</p>	<p>understands 5600-9600 words</p> <p>understands time concepts</p> <p>can answer simple when questions</p>	<p>uses 4-7 word phrases</p> <p>able to define 10 common words</p>	<p>asks for meaning of a sign or not understood</p>	<p>uses ASL grammars: topicalization, rhetorical questions, conditionals, and relative clauses</p> <p>uses noun modifications to show different meaning (plural)</p> <p>answers appropriately questions involving time (How long? How often?)</p>