

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