

# Olmos Speech, Language and Learning Clinic

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## What should my child be able to do?

(American Speech, Language and Hearing Association)

### Receptive Language (Hearing and Understanding)

#### Birth - 3 Months

- Startles to loud sounds.
- Quiets or smiles when spoken to.
- Seems to recognize your voice and quiets if crying.
- Increases or decreases sucking behavior in respond to sound.

#### 4 - 6 Months

- Moves eyes in direction of sounds.
- Responds to change in tone of your voice.
- Notices toys that make sounds.
- Pays attention to music.

#### 12 - 24 Months

- Points to a few body parts when asked.
- Follows simple commands and understands simple questions (“Roll the ball”, “Kiss the baby”, “Where’s your shoe?”).
- Listens to simple stories, songs and rhymes.
- Points to pictures in a book when named.

#### 2 - 3 Years

- Understands differences in meaning (“go-stop”, “in-on”, “big-little”, “up-down”).
- Follows two requests (“Get the book and put it on the table”).

#### 3 - 4 Years

- Hears you when you call from another room.
- Hears television or radio at the same loudness level as other family members.
- Understands simple “wh” (who, what, where, why) questions.

#### 4 - 5 Years

- Pays attention to a short story and answers simple questions about it.
- Hears and understands most of what is said at home and in school.

### Expressive Language (Talking)

#### Birth - 3 Months

- Makes pleasure sounds (cooing, gooing).
- Cries differently for different needs.
- Smiles when sees you.

#### 4 - 6 Months

- Babbling sounds more speech-like with many different sounds, including *p*, *b* and *m*.
- Vocalizes excitement and displeasure.
- Makes gurgling sounds when left alone and playing with you.

#### 12 - 24 Months

- Says more words every month.
- Uses some one- or two- word questions (“Where’s kitty?”, “Go bye-bye?”, “What’s that?”).
- Puts two words together (“more cookie”, “no juice”, “mommy book”).
- Uses many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words.

#### 2 - 3 Years

- Has a word for almost everything.
- Uses two- or three- word “sentences” to talk about and ask for things.
- Speech is understood by familiar listeners most of the time.
- Often asks for or directs attention to objects by naming them.

#### 3 - 4 Years

- Talks about activities at school or at friend’s homes.
- Speaks clearly enough that people outside of the family usually understand his or her speech.
- Uses a lot of sentences that have four or more words.
- Usually talks easily without repeating syllables or words.

#### 4 - 5 Years

- Makes voice sounds clear like other children’s.
- Uses sentences that give lots of details (e.g. “I like to read my books”).
- Tells stories that stick to topic.
- Communicates easily with other children and adults.
- Says most sounds correctly (except perhaps certain ones such as *l*, *s*, *r*, *v*, *z*, *ch*, *sh*, *th*).
- Uses the same grammar as the rest of the family.