

Understanding of Language Developmental Milestones

Age	Understanding of language	Strategies to develop understanding of language
Up to 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starting to respond to the word 'no.' Watching your face when you talk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universally Speaking (Birth to Five) Model language for your child to hear.
By 1 year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turns and looks in response to name being called. Beginning to understand simple words like 'bye bye.' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universally Speaking (Birth to Five) Early Language Development Language Difficulties in the Early Years Play a posting game and tell your child which objects to post. When tidying up, give a silly instruction such as 'put teddy in the bath' and see if they notice. Comment on what your child is doing to help them make links between words and objects or actions.
By 18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responds by pointing to pictures in books e.g. "show me the ball." Can point to body parts when asked. Understands simple phrases such as "all gone." 	
By 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can point to a number of familiar objects. Beginning to develop understanding of utterances with 2 information carrying words. (e.g. "put <u>teddy</u> on the <u>bed</u>"). 	
By 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can find items using attributes such as "find me a <u>small</u> one" or "which one is <u>on</u> the table?" Can answer "what" and "who" questions. Beginning to develop understanding of utterances with 3 information carrying words. Listens to and remembers simple stories with pictures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universally Speaking (Birth to Five) Early Language Development Using books to develop language Teaching Children New Words Keep instructions short and use clear and simple language. Support children's understanding of spoken instructions by using gesture, sign, symbols or other visual cues. Allow processing time. Comment on what your child is doing to help them make links between words and objects or actions.
By 4 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can follow instructions with 2 parts e.g. "get teddy and sit on the floor." Can give reasons when asked a "why" question. 	



	Can respond to questions about a story e.g. "who climbed the beanstalk?"	
By 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can follow directions using sequence words e.g. "show me your picture before you hang it up." 	
Between 5 and 11 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to explain why things have happened. Can follow longer instructions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universally Speaking (5-11) Simplify instructions into logical sequences and repeat keywords if necessary. Allow processing time. Encourage child to say if that haven't understood and ask for clarification or repetition.
Between 11 and 16 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to make inferences by demonstrating an understanding of information that is not explicitly written or spoken. Demonstrates an understanding of idioms such as "at the drop of a hat." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Universally Speaking (11-18)

Understanding of language skills not present in 2 age categories below their actual age e.g. unable to point to familiar objects or understand 2 information carrying word instructions at 4 years

Understanding of language skills not present in 1 age category below their actual age e.g. unable to find items by attributes or listen to and remember simple stories with pictures at 4 years

Understanding of language is age appropriate

