



Clara Barton

THERAPY SERVICES

Before Words

Your pediatrician might ask you how many words your child is saying, but there are many other developmental milestones that precede first words.

Reciprocal Play

You use a sing-song voice and talk to your child. When you stop and look expectantly they make noises and "talks back to you using jargon.

Vocalizes to Objects

Your child holds and looks at objects in his/her hand. They vocalize a variety of consonants or vowels.

Imitates Sounds

Your child copies raspberries, animal noises and other silly sounds. He/she is interested in watching your face and mouth.

Joint Attention

Joint attention is when you and your child share interest in the same item. It's an early social skill that is foundational for language and cognition. Your child looks at you and then looks at the airplane and then back at you.

Push and Pull

Your child pushes and pulls you to things they want. They might take your hand and lead you around the house.



Initiating Social Games

Your child initiates "chase" or rolling a ball back and forth. Peek-a-boo starts with your child hiding under a blanket and looking to you to continue the game.

Imitates Movement

Your child imitates movements such as clapping his/her hands to copy you. They understand and play the "How Big?" game by putting his hands out wide.

Point to Objects

Your child is relating to you! He/she points to show you things or ask what something is. They point to show you things or ask what something is. They point to tell you what they want or where he/she wants to go.

Gesturing

Representational gestures include waving bye-bye and putting his arms up when he wants to be picked up. He/she uses their body to tell you what they want.

Social Referencing

Your child wants you to watch them! He/she looks over while playing to make sure you're watching as he/she slides the car down the ramp.



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250 West 9th St. | Hoisington, Ks | Phone: (620) 653-5065 | Fax: (620) 653-4010

Word Count

How many words should my child be saying?

12-18 Months

First words. Your child begins to intentionally label items. At 12 months old they use 2-6 words other than *mama* and *dada*.



18-24 Months

50 words. Your child uses a variety of words - mostly nouns. At this age your child can understand many more words than he/she can say. Children typically understand 150 to 300 words.



24-30 Months

200-300 words. Your child learns many new words including animals, body parts, and simple verbs. He/she begins to put these words together.

30-36 Months

450 words. Use positional words (in, on), color words and ask, "what's that?". Uses early pronouns (I, me, you).



36+ Months

1,000 words. Huge gains in expressive vocabulary during this year. Your child uses mostly 3-word phrases.