

produce a substantial number of semantically corresponding words in each of their two languages from the very first words or signs.

At 1 year old, children use one-word sentences or holophrases. The word “up” can mean “pick me up” or “look up there.” For children, the one word conveys the meaning of a sentence, but to others, it may mean many things or nothing. At this age, about 25% of the vocalizations are intelligible. By 2 years old, children use multiword sentences by stringing together two or three words, such as the phrases “mama go bye-bye” or “all gone,” and approximately 65% of the speech is understandable. By 3 years old, children put words together into simple sentences, begin to master grammatical rules, know his or her age and gender, and can count three objects correctly ([Feigelman, 2016](#)). Reading books together during this period provides an ideal setting for further language development. Researchers have evaluated the impact of television viewing on toddler language development and found that those who started watching television at younger than 12 months old and who watched longer than 2 hours per day had a sixfold increase in the likelihood of language delays ([Christakis, 2010](#)). Adult–child conversations with infants and toddlers have been shown to positively affect language development; the researchers recommend reading, storytelling, and interactive adult–child communication ([Zimmerman, Gilkerson, Richards, et al, 2009](#)). The [American Academy of Pediatrics, Council on Communications and Media \(2011\)](#) reaffirms that televised or recorded media usage by children younger than 2 years old decreases language skills as well as the time parents interact with the child. Furthermore, educational programs have not been shown to increase cognitive skills in young children.

Gestures precede or accompany each of the language milestones up to 30 months old (putting phone to ear, pointing). After sufficient language development, gestures phase out, and the pace of word learning increases.

Personal-Social Behavior

One of the most dramatic aspects of development in the toddler is personal-social interaction. Personal-social behaviors are evident in such areas as dressing, feeding, playing, and establishing self-control. Parents frequently wonder why their manageable, docile,