



AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENTAL MILESTONES

This section includes language milestones for American Sign Language and English. These include skills for newborns to 11-year-olds. Each age range gives a skill for what your child should understand and express. It also provides information about your child's social and print skills. Your child's print skills include reading and writing.



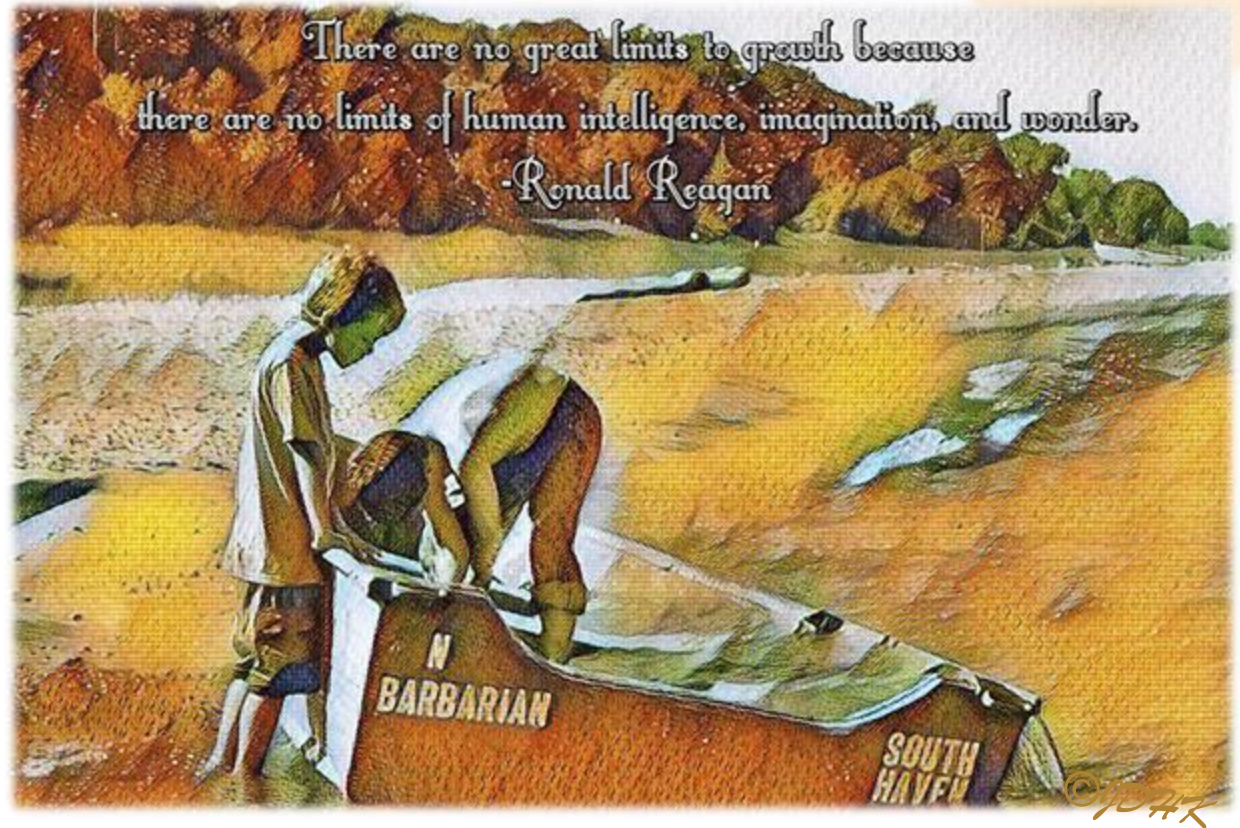
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Developmental milestones are the behaviors or skills seen in infants and children as they grow, learn, and change. There is a typical range in which a child will reach a milestone. Milestones on most checklists are not when an average child has mastered a skill. It is when 80-90% of the children within that age range have mastered the listed skills. Keeping track of milestones can help identify when your child may need some support (e.g., language therapy). The sooner your child receives any needed supports, the better their outcomes will be.

This resource includes milestones for spoken English from Standard American English. It does not address possible grammar differences that are present because of dialects. Dialects are rule-based variations of English. Your child should look/sound like their community. This community will include family, neighborhood friends, and school friends. Standard American English is used for reading and writing in Indiana schools.

In this resource, you will see examples of American Sign Language (ASL) provided in print using **gloss**. ASL does not have a print form. It is also not derived from English. To give examples of a skill, gloss is used to represent the signs word for word. The gloss does not show the meaning. ASL gloss is presented in capital letters and uses symbols to show some grammar.



As your child's first teacher, you have an amazing opportunity to nurture your child's language growth. By taking an active role, parents can help ensure that their child has all the support they need to develop to their full potential.

0-3 Months



0-3 Months Receptive and Expressive Language Skills			
Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
Your child will respond to your face and look attentively at your face (by 3 months).		<p>Your child will cry to express hunger and/or anger.</p> <p>Your child will begin to gurgle, laugh, and smile.</p> <p>Your child will bring both hands to their mouth.</p> <p>Your child will express basic feelings and needs.</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will look in the direction the signer is pointing.	Your child will begin to search for the source of a sound.	Your child will begin to play by holding hands and fingers.	Your child will begin to vocalize to express pleasure.
Your child will begin to focus on faces and hands.	Your child will respond to talking by quieting or smiling.	Your child will begin to smile to express pleasure.	Your child will sometimes vocalize in response to sounds.
Your child will begin to look at the visual environment with alertness.	Your child will react differently to voices, sounds, and emotions.	Your child will sometimes look in the direction of movements.	
	Your child will startle to sudden noises.	Your child will begin to express interest in movement.	
	Your child will quiet to a familiar voice.		

0-3 Months Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills

Your child will begin to smile and respond to you.


Your child will look at your face and localize you with their eyes (by 3 months).

Your child will smile in response to your signing/talking.

Your child will give a true social smile and/or coo in response to a familiar face.

Your child will begin to imitate facial movements.

Your Child's Print Skills



Early exposure to books is important! Try using tummy time to read simple board books to your child.



You have begun the exciting journey of watching your child grow, learn, and change! We hope you cherish the time you have to focus on loving and bonding with your baby who is deaf or hard of hearing. ❤️

3-6 Months



3-6 Months Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
Your child will discriminate between angry and friendly tones and facial expressions; cry in response to an angry voice/expression.		<p>Your child will blow raspberries, coo, yell.</p> <p>Your child will use non-verbal means to call attention to physical needs (e.g., toileting, hunger).</p> <p>Your child will use non-verbal means to express personal reactions (e.g., curiosity, surprise, reluctance).</p> <p>Your child will begin to express excitement and displeasure.</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will follow the eye gaze and movement of the signer.	Your child will localize a sound source with a head or eye turn.	Your child will copy movements involving the arms, hands, head, and face.	Your child will voice different sounds to express varied emotions (e.g., social intent, protest).
Your child will attend to sign presented with slow, repeated, large movements.	Your child will sometimes respond to their own name.	Your child will hand/finger babble (e.g., open and close hands, wiggle fingers, twist wrists).	Your child will babble with a variety of sounds, vowels, and consonants.
	Your child will often stop crying in response to voice.		Your child will try to imitate sounds.
	Your child will vocalize when you talk to them.		Your child will vocalize for needs and wants, in response to others, and when alone.

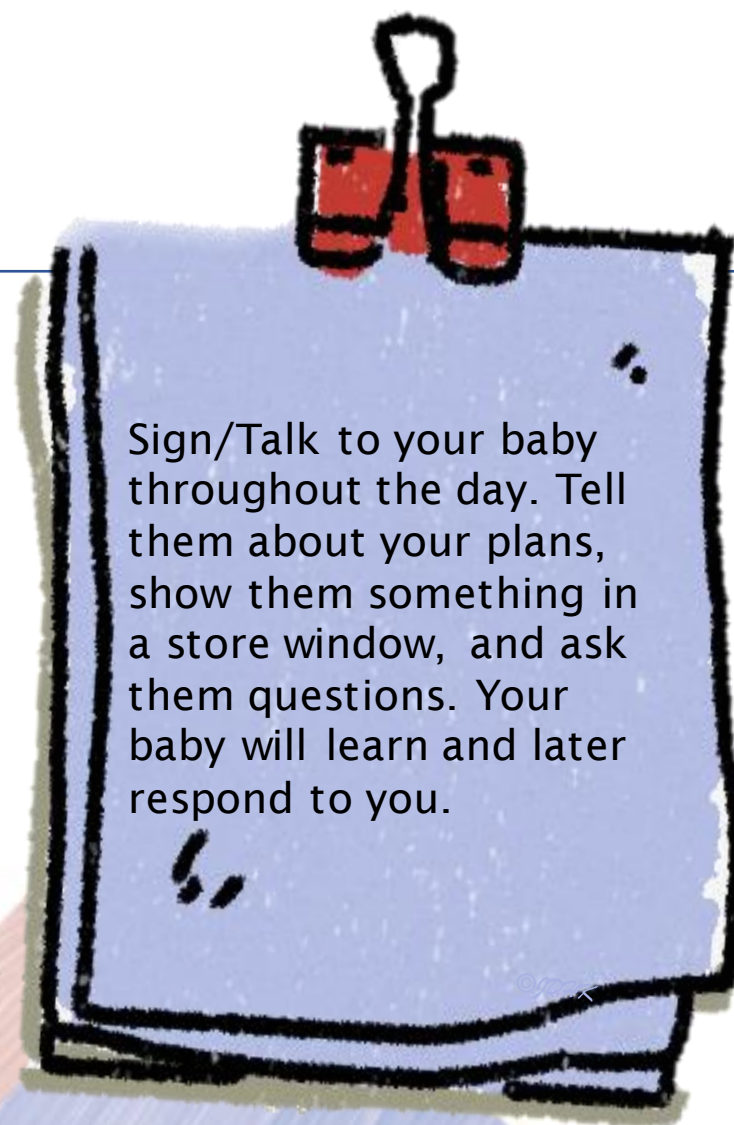
3-6 Months Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills

Your child will engage in play (e.g., peek-a-boo).
 Your child will begin to enjoy finger-plays/finger games.
 Your child will imitate facial expressions.
 Your child will have joint attention (e.g., look at an object with you).
 Your child will maintain eye contact.

Your Child's Print Skills

Sign/Talk to your baby throughout the day. Tell them about your plans, show them something in a store window, and ask them questions. Your baby will learn and later respond to you.



6-9 Months



6-9 Months Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will look at a toy you show them.</p> <p>Your child will look attentively at a person's face.</p> <p>Your child will begin to show attention to storytelling/story-signing.</p> <p>Your child will respond with gestures to words (e.g., up, hi , bye-bye) .</p>		<p>Your child will show objects by holding, pointing, reaching, or looking at them.</p> <p>Your child will use some gestures (e.g., shakes head for no).</p> <p>Your child will smile, make eye contact, and laugh.</p> <p>Your child will show they are excited or upset.</p> <p>Your child will use language to note the disappearance of objects (e.g., all gone).</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
<p>Your child will alertly track/follow the eye gaze of a signer.</p> <p>Your child will understand emotions shown on your face (e.g., anger, friendliness).</p>	<p>Your child will sometimes respond to family names, "no," and own name.</p> <p>Your child will enjoy music or singing.</p> <p>Your child will appear to listen to the whole conversation between others.</p>	<p>Your child will hand/finger babble.</p> <p>Your child will laugh when sees fingers approach to tickle.</p>	<p>Your child will appear to "sing".</p> <p>Your child will repeat consonant-vowel syllables (e.g., pa pa).</p>

6-9 Months Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills

Your child will use gesture and/or voice to initiate contact.

Your child will understand communication turn-taking.

Your child will respond to social games (e.g., finger games, pat-a-cake).

Your child will show a desire to interact with people (e.g., call out or wave to get attention).

Your child will imitate the movements of others (e.g., nod, wave, and clap).

Your Child's Print Skills

Your child will attend to/vocalize and pat pictures.

Your child will begin to share a book with an adult.

Your child will reach for a book.

Your child will put books in their mouth.



When you read to your child, help them turn pages. Point to pictures as you read. Use animated facial expressions. Be at eye level with your child.

9-12 Months



9-12 Months Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will sometimes give toys/objects on request.</p> <p>Your child will sometimes follow simple commands (e.g., put that down).</p> <p>Your child will understand greetings.</p> <p>Your child will understand about 50 signs and/or words.</p>		<p>Your child will use first words (e.g., bye-bye, mama).</p> <p>Your child will label objects without adult cues.</p> <p>Your child will greet others (e.g., hi, bye-bye).</p> <p>Your child will copy face movements (e.g., frown, smile).</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will turn their head to attention-getting behaviors (e.g., hand waving, lights flashing).	Your child will respond to vocal intonation.	Your child will use face movement, gestures, and/or signs to protest.	Your child will use jargon of 4 + syllables sentence-like structures without true words.
Your child will recognize their own name sign.	Your child will respond to songs.	Your child will hand/finger babble to self or others.	Your child will produce many word-like one-syllable speech sounds (e.g., ma, pa).
Your child will use a negative headshake alone or with sign.	Your child will understand some object names.	Your child will point to self and objects in the environment.	Your child will imitate inflections and rhythms when vocalizing.
Your child will follow the eye gaze of the signer.	Your child will show increased attention to speech.	Your child will sign wants (e.g., MILK, WATER, MOM, DAD).	Your child will use voice and gestures to express (e.g., protest, call, tell feelings, and respond to others).

9-12 Months Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills

Your child will respond to activities by laughing and repeating the action.

Your child will indicate a desire to change activities

Your child will direct others by tugging and pushing.

Your child will complete activities with at least two turns.

Your child will enjoy storytelling /story-signing.

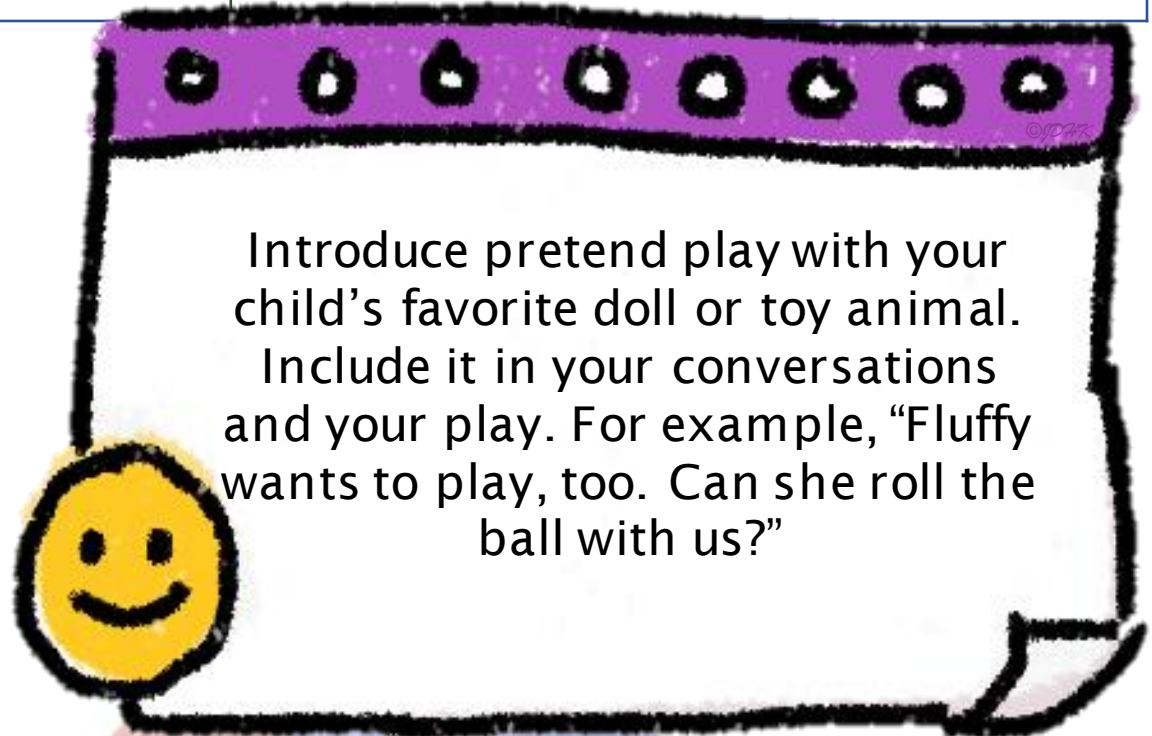
Your Child's Print Skills

Your child will look at books.

Your child will show interest in a familiar story or book.

Your child will attend to repetition of familiar signs and/or words, songs, and rhymes.

Your child will use a crayon to make marks on paper.



12-15 Months



12-15 Months Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will point to self on request.</p> <p>Your child will follow one-step directions.</p> <p>Your child will identify pictures/objects on request.</p> <p>Your child will begin to answer where and what questions.</p>		<p>Your child will use a single sign/word + a gesture/point.</p> <p>Your child will imitate new signs/words.</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
<p>Your child will recognize their own name sign.</p> <p>Your child will recognize the name signs of family members.</p>	Your child will understand new words.	Your child will use name signs to refer to others.	Your child will continue to use jargon with more true words developing.
	Your child will search for objects named verbally that are not in the room.	Your child will sign wants (e.g., SLEEPY, HUNGRY, THIRSTY)	Your child will use up to 7 spoken words all the time.
	Your child will identify an object from a group.	<p>Your child will produce signs that have the simple handshapes of C, A, S, I, 5.</p> <p>Your child will use gestures to communicate (e.g., COME HERE).</p>	<p>Your child will pause and use intonation when producing jargon.</p> <p>Your child will produce early consonants: b, m, n, t, d, w.</p>

12-15 Months Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills

Your child will imitate actions of others.

Your child will take turns as language develops.

Your child will involve others by showing things during play.

Your child will use pointing, reaching, and single words to request.

Your child will begin to use signs/words to request a turn (my-turn, "mine").

Your Child's Print Skills

Your child will scribble with a crayon or pencil.



Build on what your child says. If they say/sign "ball," you can say, "That's your big, red ball" or sign, BALL (big) RED, YOUR.

15-18 Months



15-18 Months Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will follow single step directions.</p> <p>Your child will find familiar objects out of sight.</p> <p>Your child will identify some clothing, toys, and food.</p> <p>Your child will respond to yes/no questions with head nod/shake.</p> <p>Your child will identify objects and actions in pictures.</p>		<p>Your child will respond to simple commands (e.g., “sit down” COME-HERE).</p> <p>Your child will imitate signs/words.</p> <p>Your child will use at least 10 meaningful signs/words.</p> <p>Your child will say/sign functional words (e.g., no, more, mine).</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will recognize the name signs of family members.	Your child will respond to simple requests for clarification.	Your child will use gestures to express.	Your child will begin replacing gestures with the use of words or word-like sounds.
Your child will identify familiar pictures, animals, and objects in the room upon request.	Your child will identify some body parts.	Your child will form the first ASL signs using simple handshapes C, A, S, I, 5 clearly.	Your child will make the same sound in reference to a picture in a familiar book.
Your child will answer WHERE, WHAT questions about items in the room.	Your child will develop category vocabulary (e.g., dishes, toys).	<p>Your child will sign 2-word phrases (e.g., EAT MORE).</p> <p>Your child will repeat what others sign.</p>	<p>Your child will verbally request and protest</p> <p>Your child will initiate verbal turns.</p>

15-18 Months Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills

- Your child will prefer to be with familiar people.
- Your child will show caution with strangers.
- Your child will imitate other children.
- Your child will repeat what was just said/signed.
- Your child will use language to get attention.

Your Child's Print Skills

- Your child will carry a book.
- Your child will hold a book with help and attempt to turn pages, usually several at a time.
- Your child will turn the book right-side-up.
- Your child will point to a picture in a book when asked "Where's the ___?"



When your child points at or gives you something, talk about the object. You can say, "You gave me the book. Thank you! Look at the picture of the baby rolling the ball" or sign, BOOK, you-GIVE-me. THANK-YOU. PICTURE, LOOK BABY BALL ROLL.

18-24 Months

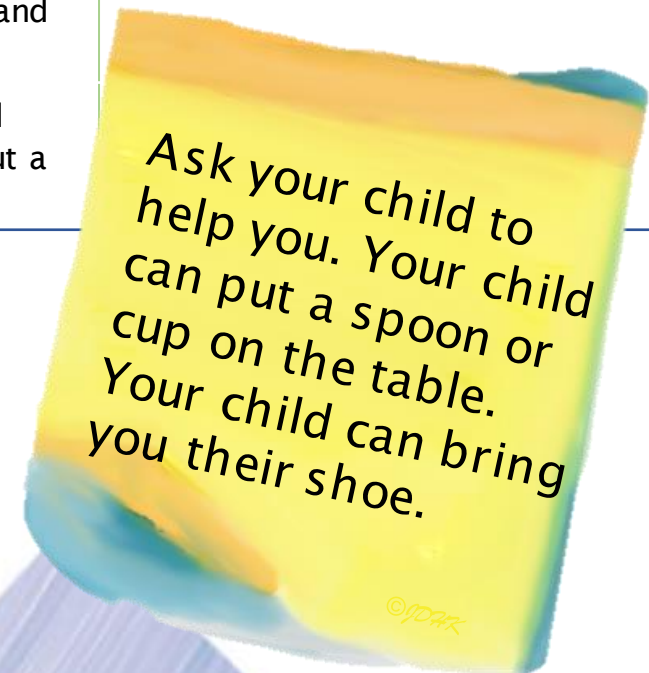


18-24 Months Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will complete two requests with one object.</p> <p>Your child will choose two familiar objects on request.</p> <p>Your child will understand 250-500 signs/words (by 24 months).</p> <p>Your child will understand personal pronouns (e.g., my, mine, you, your).</p> <p>Your child will follow 2-step related commands on request (by 24 months).</p>		<p>Your child will attempt to tell stories about experiences.</p> <p>Your child will use I, you, and mine, but still sometimes refer to self by name.</p> <p>Your child will ask where and what questions.</p> <p>Your child will use 2-word phrases with nouns, some verbs, and some describing words (by 24 months).</p> <p>Your child will independently say or sign between 150-300 signs/words (by 24 months).</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will imitate the actions or faces of people in a story.	Your child will point to at least 5 body parts.	Your child will use classifiers (CL) to describe things (e.g., CL: F for SPOTS).	Your child will engage in word and sound play with adults.
Your child will answer questions (e.g., WHO, WHICH, FOR+FOR).	Your child will listen to simple stories.	Your child will use non-manual markers (e.g., raised eyebrows, squints).	Your child's single-syllable words with early developing sounds will be understood 50% of the time.
		Your child will use headshake + sign for negation.	Your child will sometimes use the word endings -ing and -s.
		Your child will use lexicalized signs (e.g., #BUS, #ICE).	Your child will use the words in, on, and up.

18-24 Months Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
Your child will take 1-2 turns in a conversation.	Your child will tell the difference between words and pictures.	Your child will imitate drawing marks or scribbling.
Your child will use language to request help.	Your child will bring a book to an adult to read.	Your child will explore drawing, painting, and writing as a way to communicate.
Your child will initiate pretend play.	Your child will look at a book alone and pretend to read familiar books.	
Your child will tell about past events and future actions.	Your child will attend to pictures and written text for several minutes.	
Your child will request information (e.g., What is this?).	With adult support, your child will respond to simple questions about a familiar story.	

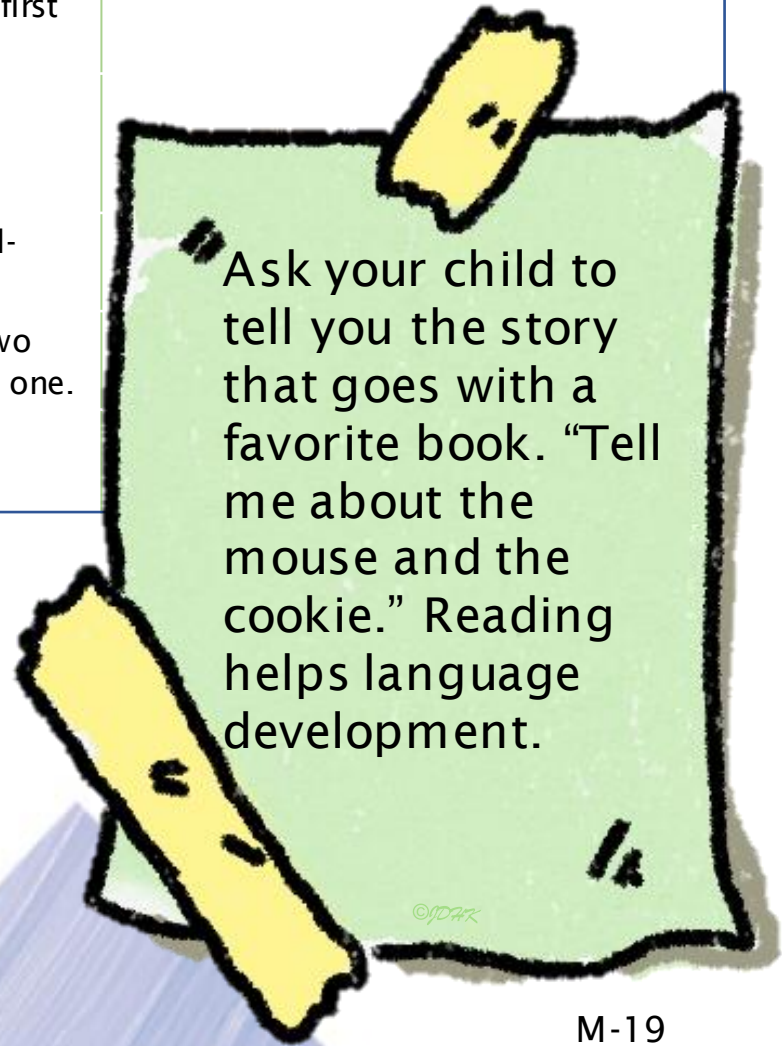


24-30 Months



24-30 Months Receptive and Expressive Language Skills			
Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will understand big and little.</p> <p>Your child will understand present and future (e.g., today, tomorrow).</p> <p>Your child will understand quantity (e.g., one, all).</p> <p>Your child will understand connected language.</p>		<p>Your child will use 2-3-word phrases consistently.</p> <p>Your child will have a vocabulary range of over 250 signs/words.</p> <p>Your child will ask and answer simple wh-questions (e.g., what? who? where?).</p> <p>Your child will refer to self with pronouns (e.g., I, me).</p> <p>Your child will use negation (e.g., don't like, don't know, no).</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
<p>Your child will recognize own name when finger-spelled.</p> <p>Your child will answer questions by combining an object and a verb (e.g., FROG JUMP).</p>	<p>Your child will identify objects by their functions.</p> <p>Your child will repeat a 4-5-word sentence.</p>	<p>Your child will use NOT-YET.</p> <p>Your child will use descriptive classifiers(CL) (CL:O, CL:3).</p> <p>Your child will use handshapes: B, F, O.</p> <p>Your child will use pronouns and possessives (HE, SHE, IT, MY, YOUR, HIS, HERS).</p>	<p>Your child will say sentences that you understand 50-70% of the time.</p> <p>Your child will use words to describe pictures or objects (e.g., big book, three cookies).</p> <p>Your child will use -ing verbs and possessive -s.</p> <p>Your child will use prepositions in and on.</p>

24-30 Months Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
<p>Your child will use language more in play (e.g., pretend to chat on the phone/text/videophone).</p> <p>Your child will engage in parallel play (e.g., play beside other children using the same toys but not with the children).</p> <p>Your child will share toys and join games.</p> <p>Your child will complete actions (e.g., give me five).</p> <p>Your child will tell their own age.</p>	<p>Your child will recognize and identify a few letters in context (e.g., the first letter of their name).</p> <p>Your child will recognize familiar books by their cover.</p> <p>Your child will recite parts of well-known stories and songs.</p> <p>Your child will hold books with two hands and turn the pages one by one.</p> <p>Your child will answer simple questions about a story.</p>	 <p>"Ask your child to tell you the story that goes with a favorite book. "Tell me about the mouse and the cookie." Reading helps language development.</p>



30-36 Months



30-36 Months Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will answer what, who, where and what doing questions (e.g., pet name, sibling name, name objects, name actions).</p> <p>Your child will carry out 2-3 signed/verbal commands.</p> <p>Your child will understand yesterday.</p> <p>Your child will understand descriptive words.</p> <p>Your child will identify parts of an object.</p>		<p>Your child will use 3-4-word simple sentences and questions.</p> <p>Your child will use question forms of yes/no, who, what, where, and when.</p> <p>Your child will use simple descriptors (e.g., hot, cold, big, little).</p> <p>Your child will use commands with two steps.</p> <p>Your child will use negatives (e.g., don't like, don't know, not yet).</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will understand familiar simple finger-spelled words.	Your child will understand spatial concepts (e.g., in, on, under).	Your child will use emotion signs (e.g., SAD, HAPPY, SCARED).	Your child will use quantity words (e.g., something, nothing, none).
	Your child will understand categories.	Your child will substitute simple handshapes for more complex handshapes (e.g., CL:5 in place of CL: W for WATER).	Your child will use unstressed words/sounds (e.g., plural -s, is).
	Your child will repeat 3 numbers in a sequence, and/or a sentence of 6-7 words.	<p>Your child will use classifier(CL) CL:3 (e.g., CAR DRIVING FORWARD)</p> <p>Your child will use simple, descriptive classifier(CL) CL:O (e.g., for pole).</p>	<p>Your child will use spoken language that everyone understands 75% of the time.</p> <p>Your child will use at least 2 adverbs (e.g., fast, slowly, above, next to).</p>

30-36 Months Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
Your child will take turns, share, and ask permission of others.	Your child will recognize and identify some letters in context.	Your child will imitate simple lines and shapes with a crayon.
Your child will engage in make-believe activities.	Your child will recognize that symbols have meaning (e.g., the golden arches symbolizes McDonald's).	Your child will tell a story for an adult to write .
Your child will express feelings (e.g., mad, happy, sad, scared).	Your child will recognize familiar books by their cover.	
Your child will begin to give directions (e.g., You do it, Don't touch it).	Your child will recite parts of well-known stories, songs, and nursery rhymes.	
Your child will use questions to get information and request clarification.	Your child will tell a story from pictures.	



Your child still needs quiet time. This is not just for naps. Turn off the TV and tablets. Let your child enjoy quiet play, singing, and chatting with you.

36-42 Months

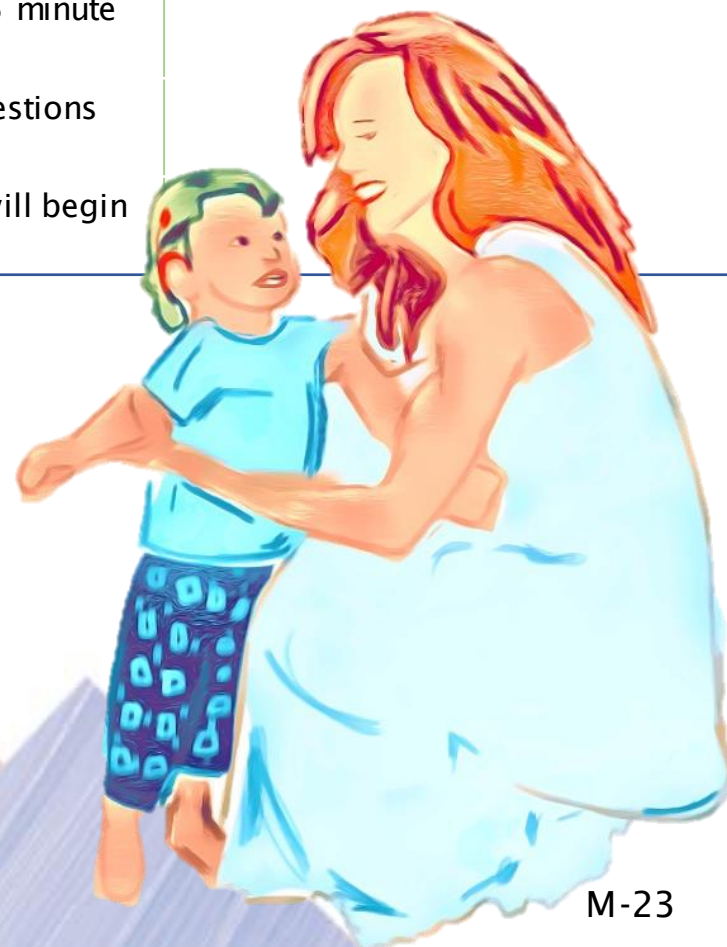


36-42 Months Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will name an object when given the function (e.g., What do you see with?).</p> <p>Your child will understand quality, texture, and quantity (e.g., nice, rough, smooth, some).</p> <p>Your child will begin to understand concepts (e.g., full, empty, some, same/different, day/night).</p> <p>Your child will correctly answer questions about a signed-/spoken-only message.</p> <p>Your child will understand 900 words.</p>		<p>Your child will describe what for objects are used for and identify items that do not belong.</p> <p>Your child will ask when, how many, and who questions.</p> <p>Your child will answer how many, who, whose, why, what if, and what is missing questions.</p> <p>Your child will use 5-6 sign/word sentences.</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will begin to understand part/whole relationships (e.g., ARM/BODY).	Your child will follow 2-3 step unrelated spoken commands.	Your child will use TWO-OF-US, THREE-OF-US.	Your child will talk using many grammatical structures (e.g., plurals, pronouns, prepositions, adjectives, present progressive – ing).
		Your child will begin to use plain verbs to connect subject and object (e.g., HE LIKE ICE-CREAM).	Your child will combine sentences using <i>and</i> , <i>but</i> , <i>because</i> .
		Your child will use verb modification (e.g., STROLLING, WALKING QUICKLY).	Your child will use past modals (e.g., could, would, should, must, might).
		Your child will use topicalization (e.g., POPCORN, ME LIKE).	Your child will use <i>do</i> to ask yes/no questions.

36-42 Months Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
<p>Your child will take 4-5 turns during conversation.</p> <p>Your child will relay a message.</p> <p>Your child will show understanding of others' feelings and needs.</p> <p>Your child will make conversational repairs.</p> <p>Your child will enjoy role-playing with others.</p>	<p>Your child will identify some uppercase and lower-case letters.</p> <p>Your child will respond to stories read aloud to a group.</p> <p>Your child will attend to a 10-15 minute story.</p> <p>Your child will answer some questions about a story.</p> <p>With adult support, your child will begin to retell familiar stories.</p>	<p>Your child will draw or copy two lines that cross (+).</p>



42-48 Months



42-48 Months Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will understand the difference between past/present/future and singular/plural.</p> <p>Your child will understand opposites (e.g., cold/hot, big/little).</p> <p>Your child will carry out 3 related commands in order.</p> <p>Your child will recognize language absurdities (e.g., there's an elephant on your head).</p> <p>Your child will understand 1,500-2,000 signs/words.</p>		<p>Your child will use How much? and How? questions.</p> <p>Your child will provide a label when given a child-friendly definition of a familiar word (e.g., What is round and bounces? ... a ball).</p> <p>Your child will use associations and comparisons.</p> <p>Your child will use some basic qualitative concepts (e.g., wet, dry, hot, cold) and quantitative concepts (e.g., more, less, full).</p> <p>Your child will use 800-1500 words.</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will understand quantity (e.g., FULL, EMPTY, SOME).	Your child will answer final word analogies (e.g., cow is to farm as giraffe is to...).	Your child will fingerspell own name on request.	Your child will use negative modals (e.g., shouldn't, won't, can't).
Your child will answer questions: HOW, WHY, DO-DO.	Your child will understand -er and -est endings.	Your child will show increased use of topicalization (e.g., BALL, BOY THROW).	Your child will use regular and irregular past tense and third person singular -s verbs.
		Your child will use complex handshapes: W, D, P, 3, V, H, X, R, M, N, T, 8.	Your child will use articles <i>a</i> and <i>the</i> .
			Your child will be understood by everyone.

42-48 Months Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
Your child will follow topic changes and add comments without changing the subject.	Your child will understand that books are made up of written words.	Your child will draw pictures you can recognize.
Your child will use language to get and give details, tell needs/feelings, and make deals.	Your child will interact with books read aloud to a group.	Your child will draw pictures of people that have at least three parts (e.g., head, eyes, nose, arms, legs).
Your child will create and maintain worlds of make-believe.	Your child will hold books right-side-up and turn pages left to right.	Your child will print a few letters or numbers.
Your child will ask or respond to questions for clarification.	Your child will answer questions about a story.	
Your child will work in a small group for 10-15 minutes.	Your child will retell familiar stories.	



Think about including social skills or social stories for your daily reading. One resource is <https://www.juliacookonline.com/>

4-5 Years



4-5 Years Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will answer questions (e.g., what happened, why, how).</p> <p>Your child will understand more difficult directions about a picture (e.g., point to the big dog that is not brown).</p> <p>Your child will show the ability to think about and comment on language.</p> <p>Your child will understand time concepts and parts (e.g., later/earlier, half/whole, etc.).</p> <p>Your child will understand 13,000+ signs/words.</p>		<p>Your child will use 5-8 word sentences.</p> <p>Your child will tell a simple story that includes a beginning, middle, and end.</p> <p>Your child will use 2,500+ signs/words.</p> <p>Your child will ask why, whose, and what does this word mean questions.</p> <p>Your child will use two or more describing words in a sentence (e.g., front/back, heavy/light).</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will demonstrate awareness that lexicalized signs are made up of handshapes.	Your child will comprehend verb tense (e.g., kicked/kick, ran/run).	Your child will use conditionals (e.g., SUPPOSE TEACHER SHE SICK? CLASS NONE).	Your child will use <i>because</i> , <i>if</i> , and <i>so</i> correctly in sentences.
Your child will distinguish nouns (double movement) from verbs (single movement) (e.g., CHAIR, SIT).	Your child will follow directions using location words (e.g., on, top, beside, behind, under).	Your child will tell stories that include setting up absent people and objects in space.	Your child will use words to describe placement (e.g., to, from, up, by, with).
Your child will understand number distribution (e.g., LEAVES, FALL-singular; LEAVES, FALL-plural).	Your child will comprehend irreversible passive tense (e.g., The ball was kicked by the boy).	Your child will use time indicators (e.g., FINISH, NOT-YET).	Your child will use irregular third person verbs (e.g., is, am, are).
Your child will understand handshape categories (e.g., CL:F: BUTTON, FOX, CAT).	Your child will understand words for order (e.g., first, next, last).	Your child will use WH bracketing (e.g., WHO GO WHO?).	Your child will ask negative tag questions (e.g., we went, didn't we?).

4-5 Years Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
Your child will join conversations. They will change the topic, nicely interrupt, and take at least 4 turns.	Your child will identify most uppercase and some lowercase letters.	Your child will recognize their own name in print.
Your child will discuss make-believe things and places.	For children that use a phonics-based approach, they will repeat a familiar rhyme and make rhymes to simple words.	Your child will print their first name or at least four letters.
Your child will understand humor and other points of view.	For children that use a phonics-based approach, they will blend and segment syllables and tell the first sound in some words.	Your child will draw pictures of people that have at least a head with eyes-nose-mouth, body, arms and legs, hands and feet.
Your child will state their town, their birth month, and their parents' first names.	With adult support, your child will track words in a book from left to right, top to bottom, and page to page.	Your child will draw and print in a planned and organized way.
Your child will use words to invite others to play.	Your child will retell familiar stories with structure and varying verb tense.	



Sign/talk "out loud" when you play with your child. Ask open-ended questions like "What do you think will happen if...?"

5-6 Years



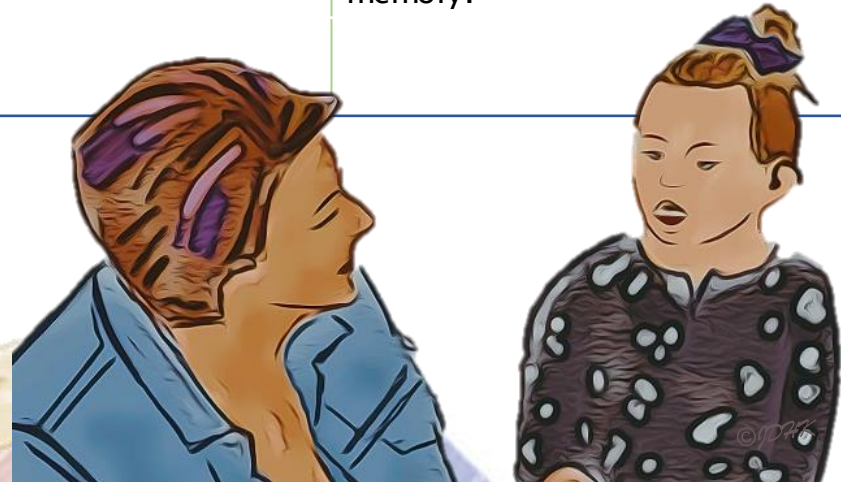
5-6 Years Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will understand time sequences (e.g., What happened first, second).</p> <p>Your child will classify items by material (e.g., cloth, glass).</p> <p>Your child will understand who, what, when where, why, and how questions.</p> <p>Your child will understand verbs by demonstrating the action (e.g., walk, strut, march).</p> <p>Your child will follow group instruction and discussions.</p>		<p>Your child will relate action and describing words to their opposites.</p> <p>Your child will give and restate simple 1, 2, and 3-step directions.</p> <p>Your child will describe familiar people, places, things, and events with details.</p> <p>Your child will answer questions to get help, give information, or better explain something.</p> <p>Your child will add drawings or other visuals to descriptions to show ideas and feelings.</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will know basic classifierhandshape and movement.	Your child will follow directions that include <i>ask</i> or <i>tell</i>	Your child will use basic classifiers for descriptions.	Your child will use <i>it</i> or <i>that</i> to represent an entire idea (e.g., That's not my fault).
Your child will understand signing space and non-manual markers.	Your child will understand passive tense (e.g., That song was sung by my Mom.)	Your child will recite ASL poems, rhymes, and folklore with expression.	Your child will use adverbs (e.g., We will go <i>for</i> lunch. I want the yellow shirt <i>instead</i>).
Your child will identify new meanings for similar signs (e.g., SAME/LIKE).	Your child will understand irregular plurals (e.g., men, mice)	Your child will change sign movement or handshapes to make new words.	Your child will use clauses (e.g., as soon as, until, while, before, after).
Your child will recognize common types of stories (e.g., story-signing, storytelling, poems).	Your child will begin to understand non-literal meanings (e.g., make up your mind)	Your child will use role-shifting and/or non-manual markers (e.g., WANT/DON'T-WANT, WALK-QUICKLY/WALK-slowly).	Your child will use simple grammar correctly (e.g., pronouns, prepositions, and articles).

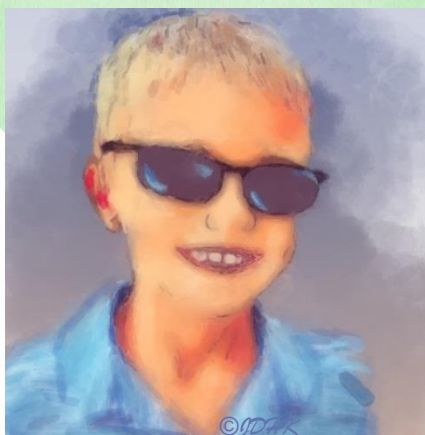
5-6 Years Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
Your child will follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., attend to others, taking turns).	Your child will identify and name all uppercase (capital) and lowercase letters of the alphabet.	Your child will write most uppercase and lowercase letters with correct spacing.
Your child will engage in different kinds of conversations.	For children that use a phonics-based approach, they will produce rhyming words, blend sounds, and segment words into syllables.	Your child will use words and pictures to tell an event or simple story in the right order.
Your child will maintain a conversation and respond to comments.	Your child will understand that print goes from left to right and top to bottom.	Your child will print first and last name with letters facing in the correct direction.
Your child will ask questions to understand a topic.	Your child will engage in a group reading with purpose and understanding.	Your child will print all 26 letters of the alphabet by copying them or from memory.
Your child will tell a well-structured, personal story.		

Cook with your child.
Cooking gives you time
together. You can work on
following directions,
math skills, and vocabulary.



6-7 Years

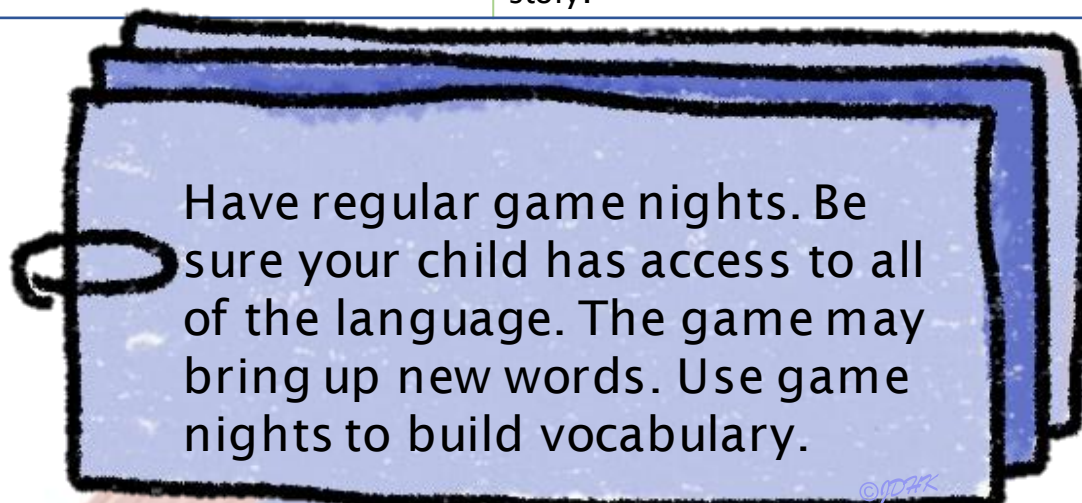


6-7 Years Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will be able to summarize a story after one exposure.</p> <p>Your child will be able to identify things that don't make sense in a sentence, both in the meaning of words and in the grammar.</p>		<p>Your child will use well-formed narratives.</p> <p>Your child will give and restate multi-step directions.</p> <p>Your child will list objects of a category and give categories a name.</p> <p>Your child will use <i>more</i>, <i>less</i>, and <i>most</i> in questions.</p> <p>Your child will produce full explanations.</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will recognize that signs are separated by movement and hold patterns.	Your child will understand reflexive pronouns (e.g., The girl fed herself).	Your child will use the features of a sentence (e.g., eye gaze, body tilt, ending hold).	Your child will use passive voice (e.g., The house was built in 1837.).
Your child will recognize that inflective changes in signs influence their meanings (e.g., SIT-for a long time, BOOK-give you/me).	Your child will distinguish initial, middle, and final sounds in single-syllable words.	Your child will use common conjunctions (e.g., KNOW, MOVE-ON, THAT; head nods, eye gazes).	Your child will use comparatives (e.g., better, best, worse, worst).

6-7 Years Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
Your child will nicely gain attention and attend to others.	Your child will read grade appropriate texts with understanding.	Your child will print letters well.
Your child will have discussions with different people.	Your child will know and use common word families to decode unknown single syllable words.	Your child will be concerned with how their writing looks.
Your child will tell jokes.	For children who use a phonics-based approach, they will blend sounds to produce single and multi-syllabic words. Your child will segment individual sounds in one-syllable words, and add, delete, or substitute sound to change single-syllable words.	Your child will learn to spell one- and two-syllable words.
Your child will check on a listener's understanding.		Your child will establish hand dominance and pencil grip.
Your child will respond nicely to praise and apologies.		Your child will add words and simple sentences to pictures to write a story.



7-8 Years



7-8 Years Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will use context clues to learn the meaning of unknown words.</p> <p>Your child will follow 3-4 oral directions in order (e.g., stay in your seat, wait for the bus to stop, and don't forget your backpack).</p> <p>Your child will answer questions about a story.</p>		<p>Your child will provide a summary of a story after one telling.</p> <p>Your child will answer complex yes/no questions (e.g., Was the boy telling the truth when he said he was going to a friend's house?).</p> <p>Your child will form their own ideas and opinions.</p> <p>Your child will use multi-word definitions.</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
<p>Your child will build on conversations by adding their own comments to others' comments.</p> <p>Your child will ask for clarification of a topic.</p>	<p>Your child will understand words about place and time (e.g., midnight, minute, beneath).</p> <p>Your child will understand riddles and idioms.</p>	<p>Your child will manipulate signs (e.g., UNDERSTAND with four fingers to show intensity).</p> <p>Your child will describe how signs supply rhythm and meaning in a story, poem, or song.</p> <p>Your child will sign narratives in which they recount a well-elaborated event.</p>	<p>Your child will use present and past perfect tense (e.g., Have you been there before? She had read the book.).</p> <p>Your child will correctly use indefinite pronouns (e.g., <i>Many</i> come here, but <i>some</i> go down the street.).</p> <p>Your child will use complex verb tenses (e.g., He had been swimming. She might have hidden.).</p> <p>Your child will use up to 3 adjectives in the correct English order in a sentence.</p>

7-8 Years Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
Your child will produce full explanations.	Your child will read grade-level material and understand the text.	Your child will write simple stories with short sentences in sequence with pictures.
Your child will give multistep directions.	Your child will go back and re-read a sentence that does not make sense (self-monitor).	Your child will write short journal entries..
Your child will check for comprehension.	Your child will connect what they read to personal experiences and world events.	Your child will summarize stories with one to two short sentences
Your child will respond well to compliments.	For children who use a phonics-based approach, they will decode 1-2 syllable words and use context clues to help them sound out words.	



Create a book
with your child
about your family
and their
experiences.

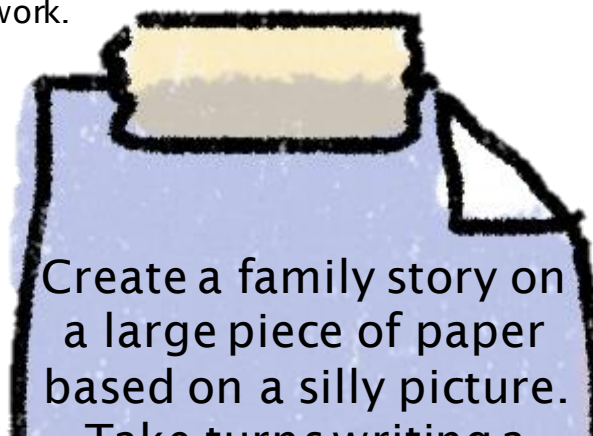
8-9 Years



8-9 Years Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will understand what is taught in class.</p> <p>Your child will retell, paraphrase, and explain the main ideas and supporting details of a lesson.</p> <p>Your child will follow 4-step and higher directions.</p>		<p>Your child will share their own ideas and opinions.</p> <p>Your child will ask complex questions to gain information.</p> <p>Your child will use words taught in subjects like science, math, and social studies.</p> <p>Your child will clearly explain classroom vocabulary.</p> <p>Your child will ask and answer questions about information from a speaker.</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
Your child will determine the meaning of finger-spelled words and signs in context.	Your child will understand jokes and riddles that have similar-sounding words.	Your child will express location through eye gaze and locative signs (e.g., VEHICLE-cl NEXT-TO HOUSE, HURT-ON-TUMMY).	Your child will use passive sentences (e.g., Anita was driven to the theater by Carla).
Your child will decode unknown signs out of context.	Your child will understand direction words (e.g., north, south, longitude).	<p>Your child will use descriptive classifiers.</p> <p>Your child will use linking signs (e.g., CL: 3-LIST, FOR-FOR-Q) to connect opinions and reasons.</p> <p>Your child will use temporal and inflection verbs to show event order (e.g., WAIT-a-long-time, GIVE-to me/you).</p>	Your child will ask and answer factual and inferential questions.

8-9 Years Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
Your child will use language to attain and maintain social status.	Your child will be able to identify the setting, characters, theme, and plot of a story.	Your child will use capitalization, punctuation, syntax, and grammar.
Your child will understand others' viewpoints.	Your child will describe characters in a story and explain how their actions impact the plot.	Your child will use writing to relate experiences .
Your child will give background details.	Your child will retell folklore, fables, and tall tales.	Your child will begin revising their work.
Your child will perform chores that take 15-20 minutes and run errands that involve time delays (e.g., remembering to bring something home from a friend's house).	Your child will determine the main idea of a text and recount key details.	 <p>Create a family story on a large piece of paper based on a silly picture. Take turns writing a part of the story to help your child learn to write better</p>
Your child will bring books and assignments from school to home and return them to school.	Your child will begin to move from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" (by third grade).	



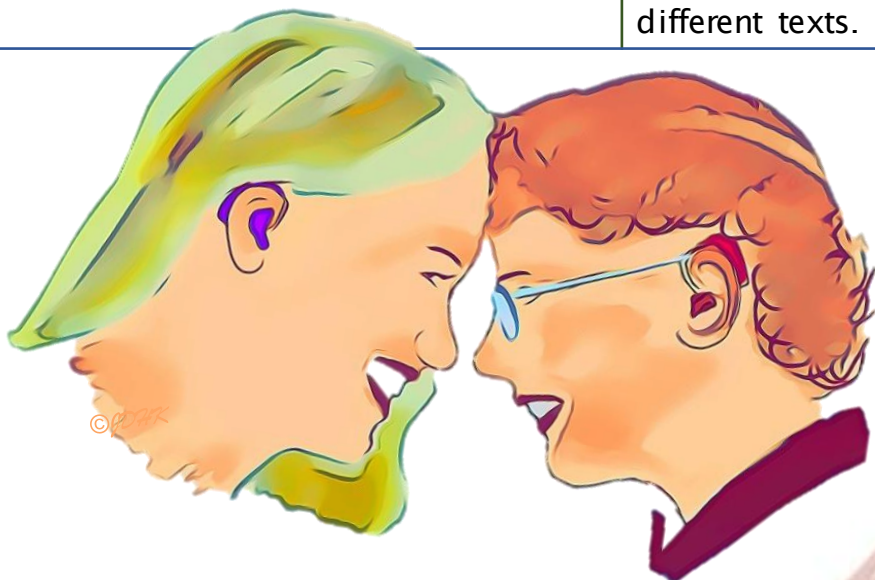
9-10 Years

9-10 Years Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will base opinions on facts.</p> <p>Your child will use details from a speaker to support their viewpoint</p> <p>Your child will summarize major ideas and details from text read aloud.</p>		<p>Your child will use language for many reasons in different situations.</p> <p>Your child will retell information in the right order.</p> <p>Your child will give an organized speech in front of a group of people.</p> <p>Your child will join group discussions. Your child will add to others' ideas and express their own ideas.</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
<p>Your child will know when to use formal and informal ASL .</p> <p>Your child will understand sign families (e.g., index finger signs often mean line of thought [WONDER, THOUGHT+DISAPPEAR]).</p>	<p>Your child will listen for key details in conversations and stories.</p>	<p>Your child will link opinion and reasons (e.g., ALSO, IDEA-SAME,ADD).</p>	<p>Your child will use figures of speech (e.g., it's raining cats and dogs).</p>
	<p>Your child will know the psychological meaning of double – function terms (e.g., sweet).</p>	<p>Your child will link ideas information using signs (e.g., OTHER,ALSO,RH-Q WHY, list referents).</p>	<p>Your child will explain the meaning of common idioms (e.g., skating on thin ice).</p>
	<p>Your child will solve second-order analogies (e.g., hot: cold :: warm: cool).</p>	<p>Your child will use role-shifting and description to tell events or show the emotion of characters.</p>	<p>Your child will use complex conjunctions (e.g., because, before).</p>

9-10 Years Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
Your child will sign/tell complex and interactive stories.	Your child will read for different purposes (e.g., for enjoyment, to learn something new, to get directions).	Your child will write narratives and descriptive texts.
Your child will understand jokes and riddles based on signs/words that can have different meanings.	Your child will make inferences (read between the lines) by using clues from the text and prior knowledge.	Your child will learn to write in challenging genres (e.g., expository, persuasive).
Your child will inhibit responses.	Your child will answer questions by looking at information in the text.	Your child will spell long, complex words.
Your child will show mature attention.	Your child will tell fact from opinion in text. Your child will compare and contrast different texts.	



If you are having trouble getting your child to read, try reading comic books or books about their interests (e.g., sports, unicorns, video games).

10-11 years



10-11 Years Receptive and Expressive Language Skills

Language your child understands		How your child expresses thoughts/feelings	
<p>Your child will attend/listen and make conclusions about school concepts.</p> <p>Your child will know the meaning of 20,000 words.</p>		<p>Your child will summarize a speaker's points and show how claims are supported by reasons and evidence.</p> <p>Your child will tell about details gathered in group activities.</p> <p>Your child will give a clear and organized presentation.</p>	
ASL	Spoken English	ASL	Spoken English
<p>Your child will contrast different forms of ASL (e.g., regional accents, registers).</p> <p>Your child will be able to determine the theme of a signed story, drama, or poem.</p>	<p>Your child will know the meaning of common prefixes and suffixes (e.g., un-, -er, pro-).</p>	<p>Your child will sign complex sentences.</p>	<p>Your child will use inviting gestures and voice when presenting.</p>
	<p>Your child will understand sentences that may have more than one meaning (e.g., The duck was ready to eat).</p>	<p>Your child will use role-shifting, description, and pacing to share personal stories.</p>	<p>Your child will understand and use proverbs (e.g., A leopard cannot change its spots.).</p>
	<p>Your child will explain some jokes and riddles that contain idioms.</p> <p>Your child will use context and nonverbal clues to understand sarcasm.</p>	<p>Your child will link opinion and reasons (e.g., THEREFORE, HAPPEN, SPECIFICALLY).</p>	<p>Your child will use adverbial conjunctions (e.g., also, then, so, besides).</p>

10-11 Years Social and Print Skills

Your Child's Social and Play Skills	Your Child's Print Skills	
	Reading	Writing
<p>Your child will adjust politeness of request based on the age and status of the listener.</p> <p>Your child will negotiate with peers to resolve conflicts.</p> <p>Your child will give specific, clear route-finding directions.</p> <p>Your child will know that their partner may not understand the message.</p> <p>Your child will explain rules of game or sport in an accurate but simple way.</p>	<p>Your child will quote from a text and draw inferences of meaning.</p> <p>Your child will determine the meaning of content-specific words.</p> <p>Your child will explain how a narrator's point of view influenced the events.</p>	<p>Your child will learn to write in stages by doing outlines and multiple drafts.</p> <p>Your child will start writing at a level equivalent to their own speech.</p>




Humor is a fun way to improve your child's language skills. Think about taking time to chat about why an advertisement or part of a movie was funny.

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