

Speech and Language Milestones 24-30 months

Kathleen Holman, M.A., CCC-SLP

Speech, Language, and Feeding Early Intervention

Between 24 and 30 months, many children begin to:

- use two to three word phrases
- speak in two word phrases more often than single word utterances
- begin to identify colors and shapes
- understand personal pronouns and begin to use the personal pronoun “I” and “me”
- both make statements and ask questions
- greet people and respond to greetings
- use words that connote negation such as the word “no”
- understand a variety of types of questions including yes/no questions, what, where, and who questions
- develop a wider variety of consonants in words and increase speech clarity

General Ways to encourage this development:

- ✚ Expanding on your child’s utterances in a positive manner. For example, if your child says “Duck!” you can respond “You’re right! I *see* a duck! Look, *I see* a duck.” If your child is producing two words such as “Big duck,” expand on these utterances as well such as “Yes, a big yellow duck,” or “Yes, I see a big duck.” Repetition is key in modeling expansion of utterances.
- ✚ When your child makes requests using single words, encourage your child to elaborate. For example, if your child says “more,” encourage your child to say “more cookies.” Using an exaggerated tone of voice and tapping out the syllables helps many children who are not yet combining words.
- ✚ If your child is just beginning to talk, consider using fun, predictable, and repetitive phrases during games, and books, that your child can anticipate and chime in (“1,2,3, weeee!” “Ready, set, go!” “March! March! March!” “Dance! Dance! Dance!” etc.) You can choose your own phrases. A fun, exaggerated tone of voice is most likely to engage the child.

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- ✚ Label everything you do—and label it repetitively. Example: “Look! Mommy is cooking. Cook! Cook! Cook! Mommy is cooking eggs. Mmm eggs. Cook Eggs. Cook! Cook!”
- ✚ As you and your child engage in actions, attach a word to the action you are doing. For each step you climb on the stairs, say “up!”. As you descend—“down!” Change your tone of voice to make this naming fun, and exciting for your child to try to imitate.
- ✚ Take turns communicating with your child. If your child is talking to you, listen. Applaud their “good talking” and respond.
- ✚ Sing childhood nursery songs together. These are also repetitive and predictable, which may help your child be inclined to pick up some words in song.
- ✚ Create situations that require your child to use language to make requests. Put desirable objects in Tupperware containers, so your child has to ask you to “open” either through sign or verbal speech, put some objects out of your child’s reach, so they have to ask for them.
- ✚ Have fun! 😊