

Communicating THROUGH THE YEARS

MILESTONE MARKERS

Birth to One Year

BIRTH–3 MONTHS

- Startles at loud sounds.
- Quiets or smiles when you talk.
- Seems to recognize your voice. Quiets if crying.
- Makes cooing sounds.
- Cries change for different needs.
- Smiles at people.

4–6 MONTHS

- Moves her eyes in the direction of sounds.
- Responds to changes in your tone of voice.
- Notices toys that make sounds.
- Pays attention to music.
- Coos and babbles when playing alone or with you.
- Makes speech-like babbling sounds, like pa, ba, and mi.
- Giggles and laughs.
- Makes sounds when happy or upset.

7 MONTHS–1 YEAR

- Turns and looks in the direction of sounds.
- Looks when you point.
- Turns when you call her name.
- Understands words for common items and people—words like cup, truck, juice, and daddy.
- Starts to respond to simple words and phrases, like “No,” “Come here,” and “Want more?”
- Plays games with you, like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake.
- Listens to songs and stories for a short time.
- Babbles long strings of sounds, like mimi upup babababa.
- Uses sounds and gestures to get and keep attention.
- Points to objects and shows them to others.
- Uses gestures like waving bye, reaching for “up,” and shaking his head no.
- Imitates different speech sounds.
- Says 1 or 2 words, like hi, dog, dada, mama, or uh-oh. This will happen around his first birthday, but sounds may not be clear.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

- Check if your child can hear. See if she turns to noises or looks at you when you talk. Pay attention to ear problems and infections, and see your doctor.
- Respond to your child. Look at him when he makes noises. Talk to him. Imitate the sounds he makes.
- Laugh when she does. Imitate the faces she makes.

DuBard School for Language Disorders can serve as a resource to help ensure you are aware of services available for your child. DuBard School’s full-time enrollment program serves children from three to 13 years of age.

Information provided by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.