

# LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Children's language skills develop at different rates, however, they do follow a predictable pattern. The milestones listed below are skills that children should have mastered by the age listed:

## 12 months

- enjoys social games, like peek-a-boo
- turns head and smiles when spoken to
- shows an interest in other children
- uses 5-6 single words to express him/herself
- imitates gestures like waving "bye-bye"
- responds to "no"

## 18 months

- follows simple directions like "get your shoes"
- enjoys looking at pictures in books
- points with an index finger to ask for something
- makes the "sound" of a familiar animal (i.e. "moo" for a cow)
- has a vocabulary of 50 words
- seems to understand what others are saying

## 2 years

- uses 2-3 word sentences
- looks at things that you point to
- identifies body parts (i.e. eyes, ears, nose)
- points to pictures in a book (i.e. show me the bear)
- asks simple questions such as "what's that?"
- enjoys the company of other children and plays next to them

## 3 years

- plays with other children for a few minutes
- speaks clearly so that others understand most of what he/she says
- uses 3-5 word sentences
- uses location words such as "in" and "on"
- starts to use some grammar (i.e. says "running" instead of "run" when appropriate)
- engages in pretend play

## 4 years

- speaks clearly so that others understand nearly all of what he/she says
- follows two-step directions
- use sentences including the connecting words like "a" and "the"
- uses words such as "walked" with an "ed" at the end when talking about past events
- identifies colors
- listens to a short story and answers a question about it

## 5 years

- follow 3 step directions
- understands opposite concepts (i.e. hot/ cold)
- uses descriptive words (i.e. tall, fast)
- understands and uses time concepts such as "yesterday" and "tomorrow"
- answers open ended questions
- engages in back and forth conversations