



ChattyCubs Language Development Checklist

Ages 1–2 Years

A gentle guide to typical speech and language milestones. Every child develops at their own pace.

Age 1 (Around 12 Months)

- ☐ Responds to their name
- ☐ Understands simple words like “no” or “bye bye”
- ☐ Uses gestures such as pointing or waving
- ☐ Babbles with varied sounds
- ☐ Says one or two clear words
- ☐ Brings objects to show you

It is normal for some skills to appear slightly earlier or later. Look for steady progress over time.

Age 2 (Around 24 Months)

- ☐ Uses around 50 or more words
- ☐ Names familiar people or objects
- ☐ Combines two words, such as “more milk”
- ☐ Follows simple instructions
- ☐ Points to show interest
- ☐ Attempts new words regularly

Understanding often develops faster than speech. Strong understanding is a positive sign.

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Age 3 & When to Seek Advice

Age 3 (Around 3 Years)

- ☐ Uses short sentences of three to five words
- ☐ Asks simple questions
- ☐ Talks about recent events
- ☐ Is understood by familiar adults most of the time
- ☐ Follows two-step instructions
- ☐ Uses language during pretend play

Speech clarity is still developing at this age. Some sounds may still be forming.

You may wish to speak to a professional if your child:

- ☐ Does not respond to their name by 12 months
- ☐ Is not using any words by 18 months
- ☐ Is not combining words by around 2½ years
- ☐ Is very difficult for familiar adults to understand at age 3
- ☐ Seems to lose skills they previously had

Seeking advice is about gathering information, not labelling your child. Early support can be simple and practical.