

# Speech and Language Milestones

## 2 to 3 Years



### From 2 to 3 years, your child:

- understands many words, including words for actions (“run, jump, sit down”), location of an object (“in”, “under”), pronouns (“I”, “you”), and simple opposites (“big”, “little”)
- understands most of what you say to him/her
- uses short sentences like “me do it”
- pronounces words clearly but not perfectly
- asks for things by name
- asks simple questions
- starts to tell simple stories
- talks about his/her feelings
- starts to play with other children
- will listen to a whole story for up to 15 minutes
- likes to pretend and make believe

### How you can help your child's speech and language grow:

- listen when your child talks to you
- describe what you are doing, planning, and thinking
- have a conversation with your child, especially during quiet time together
- be a good speech model - use correct words and phrases without correcting your child directly
- add words and ideas to what your child says - if your child says “red truck”, you say “a big red truck”
- ask a few simple questions, but not too many
- play rhyming games with your child (“what word sounds like bat?”)
- read books every day

Adapted with permission from material developed by First Words Preschool Speech and Language Program of Ottawa-Carleton led by Pinecrest-Queensway Health and Community Services.

### Parents, trust your instincts and call us if you ....

- have questions or concerns about the way your child's speech and language skills are developing
- want to refer your child for a speech and language assessment
- want more information on other topics related to speech and language development



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EARLY HELP MAKES  
A DIFFERENCE!**

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and ask for **smallTALK**

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