



Language Development Timeline (0-5 years old)

A resource guide on linguistic development in young children who are deaf/hard of hearing and hearing.

Sign Language

3-5 Years



- Ask and understands questions like "where", "how" & "why"
- Uses simple sentences, followed by more complex sentences
- Maintains visual attention, engages in conversation using appropriate interruptions, turn taking

2-3 Years



- Uses more than 250 signs
- Uses negation words like "no", "none" & "don't-want"
- Uses fingerspelling
- Expresses emotions like "happy", "sad", "mad"

1-2 Years



- Uses more than 50 signs
- Uses pointing
- Uses 2-sign combinations

0-1 Years



- Begins sign babbling around 6 months
- First meaningful sign appears around 1 year

Spoken Language

3-5 Years



- Asks and understands questions like "where", "how" & "why"
- Uses simple sentences, followed by more complex sentences.
- Maintains visual attention, engages in conversation using appropriate interruptions, turn taking

2-3 Years



- Uses more than 250 words
- Uses negation words like "no", "not", & "can't"
- Uses 2-3 word combinations
- Expresses emotions, like "happy", "sad", "mad"

1-2 Years



- Uses more than 50 words
- Uses pointing
- Uses 2-word combinations

0-1 Years



- Begins vocal babbling around 6 months
- First meaningful word appears around 1 year

