

Early Language and Literacy

Language Comprehension (Receptive Language) 1

1 Birth-8 months 1.1

- 1 Maintains eye contact with person looking at him or her: 1.1.1
 - a mutually gazes with primary caregivers, shows preference for voice of primary caregivers 1.1.1.A
 - 2 Reacts to human voice: 1.1.2
 - a appears to watch or listen, quiets self, turns toward conversation 1.1.2.A
 - 3 Reacts to new voices or sounds by becoming more quiet or active: 1.1.3
 - a startles or cries at loud sounds, shows different responses to tones of voice, looks for source of sounds 1.1.3.A
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2 6-18 months 1.2

- 1 Responds with gestures or vocal signals to familiar words: 1.2.1
 - a responds to own name 1.2.1.A
 - b turns to look at familiar person/ object/pet when named 1.2.1.B
 - c understands simple phrases as “byebye”, “hot”, etc. 1.2.1.C
 - d points or reaches to familiar objects when named as in body parts, favorite toys, family pictures 1.2.1.D
- 2 Understands simple one step requests such as “Get your blanket”, “Give me your cup”. 1.2.2
- 3 Looks to adult for messages about appropriate or inappropriate behavior. 1.2.3
- 4 Attends to and enjoys listening to adult voices: rhymes, songs, short stories, imitation games such as pat-a-cake. 1.2.4

3 Indicators: 16-36 months 1.3

- 1 Understands a variety of simple two-step requests and follows multi-step daily routines like handwashing. 1.3.1
 - 2 Understands names for common objects, familiar people, familiar actions. 1.3.2
 - 3 Understands contrasts such as: 1.3.3
 - a yes/no, come/go, run/stop, up/ down, fast/slow 1.3.3.A
 - 4 Understands prepositions such as: 1.3.4
 - a on, in, under, over 1.3.4.A
 - 5 With adult direction, finds items needed for an activity. 1.3.5
 - 6 Shows increased attention span when being read to, listening to rhymes, finger plays, songs of increased complexity. 1.3.6
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Language Expression (Expressive/Productive Communication) 2

1 Birth-8 months 2.1

- 1 Initiates communication with caregiver: maintains eye contact: 2.1.1
 - a looks intently at caregiver 2.1.1.A
 - b cries, grunts or makes loud sounds to seek caregiver assistance 2.1.1.B
 - c smiles or gestures to initiate social contact 2.1.1.C
 - d moves body in anticipation of being picked up 2.1.1.D
 - 2 Makes a variety of repetitive sounds or gestures: babbles and coos; pairs consonants and vowels with repetition such as “ma” or “da”; uses hands to express self. 2.1.2
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2 6-18 months 2.2

- 1 Uses physical gestures or sounds to get help from adult: 2.2.1
 - a gazes between adult and desired item, 2.2.1.A
 - b tugs or pulls on caregiver 2.2.1.B
 - c moves, points or motions to object out of reach 2.2.1.C
 - d expresses own needs such as hunger or wanting comfort item 2.2.1.D
- 2 Expresses self with movement or facial expressions: shakes head “no”; nods “yes”; smiles; frowns. 2.2.2
- 3 Takes turns in back-and-forth verbal play with caregiver that mimics a conversation. Responds to caregiver’s speech by babbling/uttering in reply. 2.2.3
- 4 Moves toward expression of identifiable words: 2.2.4
 - a jargon has melody and inflection 2.2.4.A
 - b imitates familiar words/sounds 2.2.4.B
 - c begins expressing clearly words like “mama”, “dada”, “bye-bye”, “no”, “baba”(bottle) 2.2.4.C

3 Indicators: 16-36 months 2.3

- 1 Uses words or actions to request assistance: 2.3.1
 - a asks for food when hungry 2.3.1.A
 - b asks for help 2.3.1.B
 - c may use words to solve conflicts with peers/siblings 2.3.1.C
 - 2 Combines words into simple sentences: “Mommy bye-bye”, “Milk all gone”. 2.3.2
 - 3 Asks and answers simple questions: lots of what, why and where questions. 2.3.3
 - 4 Uses everyday experiences to build on vocabulary: 2.3.4
 - a talks about what they are doing 2.3.4.A
 - b uses language to convey simple ideas 2.3.4.B
 - 5 Refers to self by name; uses personal pronouns (I, me, you) with increased proficiency. 2.3.5
 - 6 Vocabulary increases with age; articulation becomes increasingly clearer; may express feelings both physical and emotional. 2.3.6
 - 7 Carries on sustained interactions with caregivers. 2.3.7
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Emergent Literacy 3

1 Birth-8 months 3.1

- 1 With a responsive adult, looks at and attends to pictures of other babies or faces. 3.1.1
- 2 Looks at books, pats the pictures, brings book to mouth. 3.1.2
- 3 Kicks feet or moves arms in response to music. 3.1.3
- 4 Listens and attends to repetitions of culturally and linguistically familiar words, songs or rhymes. 3.1.4
- 5 Uses signs or gestures in response to adult’s conversation with them about photos of familiar people. 3.1.5

2 6-18 months 3.2

- 1 Exhibits increased participation when books are read: 3.2.1
 - a points 3.2.1.A
 - b makes sounds 3.2.1.B
 - c vocalizes 3.2.1.C
 - d smiles 3.2.1.D
 - e turns page 3.2.1.E
- 2 Makes motions for familiar games, rhymes, songs or finger plays. 3.2.2
- 3 Begins to “use” communication tools during imitative play: 3.2.3
 - a uses phone or book 3.2.3.A
 - b grasps marker or crayon 3.2.3.B
- 4 makes marks on paper 3.2.4

3 Indicators: 16-36 months 3.3

- 1 Exhibits increased participation with written forms of communication: 3.3.1
 - a looks at books, magazines as if reading 3.3.1.A
 - b makes sounds that relate to pictures 3.3.1.B
 - c turns pages at the right time 3.3.1.C
- 2 Recognizes signs and symbols in the environment: identifies stop sign, labels or logos of familiar places/items; memorizes and repeats phrases of songs, books, rhymes. 3.3.2
- 3 Increased understanding of communication tools: 3.3.3
 - a converses with others using play phone 3.3.3.A
 - b tells others what own scribbles mean 3.3.3.B
- 4 Shows increased attention when being read to: 3.3.4
 - a begins to make observations about the use of words and pictures 3.3.4.A
 - b enjoys stories of increasing complexity 3.3.4.B