



Hearing: Key Developmental Milestones

Hearing milestones refer to changes in the behavioral response to sound as the child grows and matures.



Babies and toddlers show a natural inclination towards music. They can detect changes in tempo, rhythm, and melody.

0-9 Months:

- Reacts to loud sounds;
- Moves eyes & head to localize sounds;
- Responds to voices by babbling.

9-12 Months:

- Tries to communicate with actions, gestures, or signs;
- Turns when you call their name;

Mimics sounds & attempts to imitate familiar sounds & words.



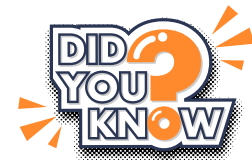
Milestones are significant markers in individual development, they allow us to monitor growth and identify potential areas of concern or intervention.



1-2 years:

- Enjoys being read to, can point to objects when you name them;
- Can follow simple directions without gestures;
- Shows interest in the sounds of the radio & TV;
- Answers & asks simple questions;
- Will say about 50 words at 2 years.

Rhymes and rhythmic patterns help children recognize and manipulate sounds in words.



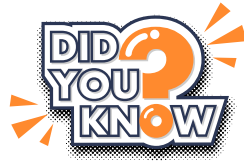
2-3 years:

- When a baby turns two years old, it is estimated that their eye-sight, eye-hand coordination, and depth perception are all fully developed;
- Answers questions about a story;
- Understands new words quickly;
- Begins to use simple past tense verbs.



3-4 years:

- Strangers can understand the majority of their speech;
- Enjoys poems and absurdities such as “the diaper goes on your head?”
- Comprehends auditory information in a variety of settings;
- Accurately repeats sentences;
- Uses most speech sounds, but may distort harder ones like: /l/ /r/ /a/ /sh/ /ch/ /y/ /z/ /th/.



Bilingual children often demonstrate cognitive flexibility which can lead to enhanced problem-solving skills.



4-5 years:

- Uses 200-300 different words;
- Uses consonants in the beginning, middle, and end of words, may distort some harder words;
- Listens attentively and retells stories accurately;
- Hears and understands most of what is said at home or school;
- Can follow longer 3 step directions.

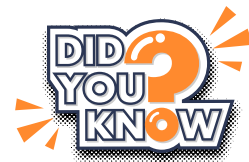


5-6 years:

- Engages in conversation and use longer (8+ words);
- Understands rhyming, can provide a word that rhymes with a given word.



Children with untreated hearing loss are at risk of social isolation and emotional difficulties due to communication barriers..



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Illinois Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program

