
PRAGMATIC (SOCIAL) LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT 0-3 YEARS

0-6 MONTHS

- Startles at loud sounds
- Responds to voices and sounds
- Turns head to a sound source
- Watches speaker/s face when spoken to
- Discriminates between strangers and familiar people
- Stops crying when spoken to; Smiles when spoken to
- Varies responses to different family members
- Uses a social smile
- Uses babbling to gain attention
- Establishes eye contact

6-12 MONTHS

- Responds to "no" and their name
- Pats image of self in mirror; Smiles at self in mirror
- Points to learn new vocabulary
- Tries to "talk" to person; Coos and squeals for attention
- Laughs when playing with objects
- Tries to communicate with actions and gestures
- Plays peek-a-boo
- Copies simple actions of others
- Shouts to get attention

1-2 YEARS

- Follows simple directions, especially with gestural cue
- Indicates when has wet pants
- Repeats an action that made someone laugh
- Pairs gestures with words to make wants known
- Imitates adult's behaviors in play
- Refers to self by name
- Uses verbal turn-taking
- Protests by saying "no"
- Engages in parallel play and simple pretend play, like talking on a phone
- Says social words like "hi", "bye", "thank you", etc.

2-3 YEARS

- Watches other children and briefly joins in their play
- Participates in associative play
- Requests permission for items or activities
- Begins to use language for pretend play, jokes, and teasing
- Makes conversational repair when listener does not understand
- Engages in longer dialogues
- Participates in simple group activities
- Defends own possessions
- Carries on "conversations" between self and dolls
- Begins to control behavior using language rather than physical actions

See LinguSystems Communication Milestones for references.