Indiana’s Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program

Language and Hearing Developmental Milestones

Birth to 3 Months
- Startles to loud noises
- Soothed by familiar voices
- Makes vowel sounds—ooh, ahh
- Squeals, coos, laughs, gurgles

Three to Six Months
- Makes a variety of sounds such as “ba-ba” or “ga-ga”
- Seems to enjoy babbling
- Uses a variety of pitches
- Likes sound-making toys
- Turns eyes and head to sounds, including your voice

Six to Nine Months
- Responds to his/her name
- Imitates speech by making non-speech sounds, coughing, clicking tongue, smacking lips
- Plays with sound through repetition “la-la-la”
- Understands “no” and “bye-bye”
- Says “da-da” or “ma-ma”
- Listens to music or singing

Nine to Twelve Months
- Responds differently to happy or angry talking
- Turns head toward loud or soft sounds
- Jabbers in response to human voice
- Uses two or three words in addition to “da-da” or “ma-ma”
- Gives toys when asked
- Stops in response to “no”
- Follows simple directions

Twelve to Eighteen Months
- Identifies people, body parts and toys on request
- Locates sounds in all directions
- Names what he/she wants
- Talks in what sounds like sentences, with few understandable words
- Gestures with speech
- Bounces to music
- Repeats some words you say

Eighteen to Twenty-four Months
- Follows simple commands
- Speaks in two word phrases, somewhat understandable
- Recognizes sounds in the environment (car, dog, vacuum, doorbell)
- Has a vocabulary of 20 words or more