

# Expressive Language Milestones: 1 to 4 Years

## 12-18 months

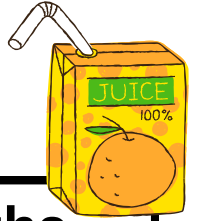
Your child produces their first words. They begin to intentionally label and produce words other than “mama” and “dada”



ball



more  
juice



## 18-24 months

Toddlers experience a "language explosion," significantly increasing their vocabulary to 50-200+ words by 24 months and starting to combine words into two-word phrases like "more juice" or "want truck" to express their needs.

## 24-30 months

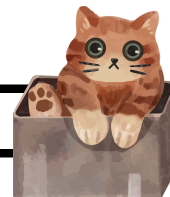
Your child may produce 200-600 words. Milestones include naming common objects and using descriptive words for concepts like size and location.



big dog

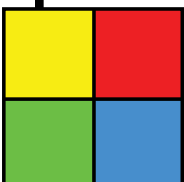
## 30-36 months

Your child will begin speaking in 3-5 word sentences, use words like “in” and “on” and pronouns like “I” and “me”, have a vocabulary of up to 1000 words and tell simple stories. They should be understood by unfamiliar listeners 75% of the time.



## 36-42 months

Your child is speaking in some 4-5 word sentences, using regular past tense asking questions, telling simple stories, naming primary colors, using some contractions, and giving their full name.



The car  
raced fast



## 42-48 months

Your child should speak in 4-5 word sentences, describe experiences, and use more complex prepositions and concepts (more/less, fast/slow).

That's a  
fast car!