By 18 months:
- Maintain eye contact
- Respond to his/her name
- Understand basic commands like “no” and “open”
- Understand the meaning of simple words like “cup” and “toy”
- Produce a few words (even if articulation is poor)
- Imitate speech sounds

By age 2:
- Attend when spoken to
- Follow simple commands, like “put down the toy on the table”
- Use one- and two-word phrases regularly
- Use a range of consonants at the beginnings of words

By age 3:
- Maintain eye contact and engage in basic conversational discourse
- Respond to a basic yes/no question
- Follow two-step directions, like “take off your coat and go into the big room”
- Be generally understood by caregivers/family
- Use a word or phrase for most needs and wants
- Correctly produce vowels and most consonants

By age 4:
- Engage in basic conversation with eye contact
- Attend to stories and directions
- Be understood by most people
- Follow multiple step complex commands, like “after you spit, give me the cup then lie down”
- Talk about remote events, like school
- Speak smoothly without repeating syllables and words
- Answer and use simple questions
- Use mostly complete sentences

By age 5:
- Maintain a topic in conversation
- Pay attention to a story and then answer questions about it
- Appropriately follow related directions
- Be understood in all situations by most listeners
- Correctly produce most speech sounds
- Communicate easily with peers
- Name any letters or numbers