

Hearing and Understanding

Birth-3 months old

- Startles to loud sounds
- Quiets or smiles when spoken to
- Seems to recognize your voice and quiets if crying
- Increases or decreases sucking behavior in response to sound

4-6 months old

- Moves eyes in direction of sounds
- Responds to changes in tone of voice
- Notices toys that make sounds
- Pays attention to music

7 months- 1 year old

- Enjoys games like peek-a-boo and pat-a-cake
- Turns and looks in direction of sounds
- Listens when spoken to
- Recognizes words for common items like “shoe”, “cup” and “juice”
- Begins to respond to requests such as “Come here” or “Want more?”

1-2 years old

- Points to a few body parts when asked
- Follows simple commands and understands simple directions such as “Roll the ball”, “Kiss the baby”, “Where’s your shoe?”
- Listens to simple stories, songs and rhymes.
- Points to pictures in a book when named.

2-3 years old

- Understands differences in meaning such as “go vs stop”, “in vs on”, “big vs little”
- Follows two requests such as “Get the book and put it on the table”
- Listens to and enjoys hearing stories for longer periods of time

3-4 years old

- Hears when you call from another room
- Hears television or radio at the same loudness level as other family members
- Answers simple “who?”, “what?”, “when?”, and “why?” questions

4-5 years old

- Pays attention to a short story and answers simple questions about them.
- Hears and understands most of what is said at home and in school.

Information taken from the American Speech
Language Hearing Association (ASHA) website
at www.asha.org