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| **6 months old** | **1 year old** | **18 months old** | **2 years old** | **3 years old** | **4 years old** | **5 years old** |
| * Make sounds to themselves and with other people, e.g. cooing, gurgling and babbling. * Make noises to get attention. * Watch a person’s face when they are talking to them. * Show excitement when they hear voices coming. * Smile and laugh when others do. * Make sounds in response to someone talking to them. | * Make talking noises, including strings of sounds. * Point and look at people to get attention. * May be able to say some words and use gestures. * Start to understand some words, e.g. bye-bye, especially those with a linked gesture. * Recognise the names of familiar objects. * Look at somebody when they are speaking or when they hear their name called. * Take turns in ‘conversations’ – babbling back to an adult. | * Say around 20 words – they may not sound mature but are consistent. * Understand some simple words and short phrases (usually those that are repeated regularly). * Recognise and point to familiar objects when you ask them to. * Enjoy games likes ‘peek-a-boo’ and toys that make noises. * Strat to explore their world and enjoy simple pretend play. | * Use over 50 single words. * Be starting to put short sentences together with two or three words. * Be asking simple questions. * Understand between 200 and 500 words. * Understand simple questions and instructions. * Enjoy pretend play. * Usually make noises or talk while playing. * Become frustrated if they cannot get their message across. | * Use up to 300 words and can use different words for different things, e.g. description of what things look like; where something is. * Refer to something that has happened in the past. * Put 4 or 5 words together to make short sentences. * Ask lots of questions. * Have clearer speech. This may still include some immaturities, e.g. finding it difficult to say ‘r’. * Listen to and remember simple stories with pictures. * Understand longer instructions. * Understand simple ‘who’, ‘what’ and ‘where’ questions. * Join in with other children playing. * Play more imaginatively. * Be able to have a conversation. * Recognise others’ feelings and begin to show empathy. | * Ask lots of questions using question words. * Be able to answer ‘why’ questions. * Use longer sentences and link them together simply. * Describe things that have already happened. * Have mostly clear speech. * Listen to longer stories and answer questions about them. * Understand and use colour, number and time related words. * Enjoy make-believe play. * Start to enjoy simple jokes. * Start to be able to make plans for games with others. | * Take turns in longer conversations. * Use well-formed sentences. * Using a wide range of words. * Thinking about the meaning of some words. * Be able to re-tell short stories. * Use most speech sounds correctly. * Enjoy listening to stories, rhymes and songs and start to make up their own. * Ask relevant questions and make relevant comments. * Understand spoken instructions without stopping what they are doing. * Understand more complicated language, e.g. first, last, might, maybe, above, in-between. * Understand sequencing words. * Take on different roles in imaginative play. * Use talk to help work out problems, organise their thinking and take part in activities. |