



# PRE-SCHOOL LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

*Children's Literacy Resource Guide*

**Reading 0 yrs+**

## Early Detection is Vital



Babies learn to talk by listening to voices and sounds – and babies develop at different rates. It is often hard to detect if your infant or toddler has a speech or language problem. Trust your instincts. If you suspect a problem, talk to your family doctor or see a Speech-Language Pathologist.

### **Up to 3 months**

- ◆ Makes lots of noises (coos and gurgles)
- ◆ Reacts to loud noises or new sounds
- ◆ Is soothed by calm gentle voices

### **6 months**

- ◆ Watches your face and makes noises when you talk
- ◆ Coos and squeals for attention
- ◆ Cries differently when hungry

### **12 months**

- ◆ Understands name and other common words when used with gestures like ‘bye-bye’
- ◆ Says sounds like ba-ba, na na, or ma ma
- ◆ Sings along, laughs, imitates others

### **18 months**

- ◆ Understands simple questions like “Where is your nose?”
- ◆ Makes gestures or asks for ‘more’ or ‘again’
- ◆ Babbles, sounding like sentences

### **2 years**

- ◆ Uses two-word sentences like ‘What’s that?’
- ◆ Understands more words than he/she can say
- ◆ Understands simple directions like “Get your coat.”

### **2-3 Years**

- ◆ Asks questions and uses short sentences
- ◆ Uses 200 words or more
- ◆ Listens to stories and answers simple questions

**Milestones for Development: The Canadian Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. Reprinted with permission. [www.caslpa.ca](http://www.caslpa.ca)**