



Speech and Language **Red Flags**





Birth to 3 Months

Has difficulty
with sucking
reflex

Doesn't
smile by 3
months

No response
to loud
noises

No
differentiated
cries

Doesn't react
to people

Doesn't
coo when
spoken to



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Has difficulty
with sucking
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Doesn't
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No response
to loud
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No
differentiated
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Doesn't react
to people

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4 to 7 Months



Doesn't laugh
or make
squealing
sounds by 5
months

Doesn't turn
in response
to new
sounds by 6
months

Shows no
affection for
the person
who cares for
them

Doesn't
respond with
big smiles by
5 months



Does not turn
head to
locate sounds
by 4 months

Doesn't seem
to enjoy being
around
people



4 to 7 Months



Doesn't laugh
or make
squealing
sounds by 5
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Does not turn
head to
locate sounds
by 4 months

Doesn't turn
in response
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Shows no
affection for
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Doesn't
respond with
big smiles by
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Doesn't seem
to enjoy being
around
people

An infographic with a central red pennant flag on a black pole. A blue butterfly is perched on the pole. The background is a soft-focus pink and white floral pattern. A yellow sun is in the top left, and a purple flower is at the bottom center. Seven orange circles contain text about developmental milestones.

8 to 12 Months

Does not coo or babble during play

Does not have at least one word that is used frequently

Does not understand simple words

No interest in games like "peek-a-boo" or "pat-a-cake" by 9 months.

Does not imitate sounds

Does not point and/or use gestures by 12 months

Does not babble by 10 months

An infographic with a central red banner on a black pole. The banner reads '8 to 12 Months'. Surrounding the pole are seven orange circles, each containing a developmental milestone. Decorative elements include a yellow sun in the top left, a blue butterfly on the pole, and a purple flower in the bottom center.

8 to 12 Months

Does not coo or babble during play

Does not have at least one word that is used frequently

Does not understand simple words

No interest in games like "peek-a-boo" or "pat-a-cake" by 9 months.

Does not imitate sounds

Does not point and/or use gestures by 12 months

Does not babble by 10 months

An infographic with a central red pennant flag on a black pole. The flag contains the text '13 to 17 Months'. Surrounding the flag are seven green circles, each containing a developmental milestone. A yellow sun is in the top left, and a yellow bird is perched on a green circle to the right. The background is a light pink watercolor wash. At the bottom, there is a patch of green grass with a small yellow flower.

13 to 17 Months

Doesn't use single words in addition to "mama" or "dada"

Does not point to simple body parts when asked by 16-17 months

Does not use at least a couple of consonants in babble/words like "m,b"

Does not respond to name and simple instructions

Does not imitate sounds

Does not say at least 3 words by 15 months

Does not use some form of communication



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Does not respond to name and simple instructions

Does not imitate sounds

Does not say at least 3 words by 15 months

Does not use some form of communication



18 to 23 Months

Does not point out things of interest

Does not point to simple body parts when asked by 16-17 months

Does not look at you when you are talking or playing

Does not follow simple verbal directions

Prefers gestures to communicate over words

Does not use at least 6 words by 18 months

Does not use at least six consonant sounds

An infographic with a central red pennant flag on a black pole. The flag contains the text '18 to 23 Months'. Surrounding the pole are seven grey circular callouts, each containing a developmental milestone. The background is a soft-focus image of a desert landscape with a yellow sun in the top left, a green cactus at the bottom center, and a pinkish-orange sky. The sun has a white crescent shape inside it. The cactus is green with multiple arms. The sky has a watercolor-like texture.

18 to 23 Months

Does not point out things of interest

Does not point to simple body parts when asked by 16-17 months

Does not look at you when you are talking or playing

Does not follow simple verbal directions

Prefers gestures to communicate over words

Does not use at least 6 words by 18 months

Does not use at least six consonant sounds



The infographic features a central red pennant with the text '24 to 36 Months' on a grey pole. The pole is set in a patch of green grass with a single purple flower. The background is a soft, pinkish-orange watercolor wash. In the top left corner, there is a stylized yellow sun with a white crescent. In the bottom left corner, there is a cartoon illustration of a brown dog's head with a black nose and a pink tongue. Surrounding the central pole are eight teal-colored circles, each containing a text description of a potential language delay sign.

24 to 36 Months

Does not put two words together

Does not show interest in communicating with others

Is not understood by adults and peers at least 50% of the time

Does not follow simple 2 step directions involving routine tasks

Unusual tone of voice ie: raspy or nasal sounding

Does not ask simple questions by 36 months

Limited vocabulary

Is not understood by anyone in the family by 30 months



The infographic features a central red pennant flag with the text '24 to 36 Months' in white. A grey pole supports the flag, standing in a patch of green grass with a single purple flower. The background is a soft, pinkish-orange watercolor wash. In the top left corner, there is a stylized yellow sun with a white crescent shape. In the bottom left corner, there is a cartoon illustration of a brown dog's head with floppy ears and a black nose. Surrounding the central flag are eight teal-colored circles, each containing a text description of a potential language delay sign. The text is in a white, sans-serif font.

24 to 36 Months

Does not put two words together

Does not show interest in communicating with others

Is not understood by adults and peers at least 50% of the time

Does not follow simple 2 step directions involving routine tasks

Unusual tone of voice ie: raspy or nasal sounding

Does not ask simple questions by 36 months

Limited vocabulary

Is not understood by anyone in the family by 30 months

An infographic with a light pink background. In the top left is a stylized yellow sun with rays. In the bottom left is a brown cartoon horse. In the center is a red pennant flag on a black pole, with green grass and orange/red leaves at its base. Eight purple circles of varying sizes are arranged around the central flag, each containing a text description of a developmental milestone. The text is in a white, sans-serif font.

3 to 4 Years

Has difficulty recalling names of common objects

Does not use plurals or past tense

Uses gestures or phrases instead of complete sentences by 3 ½ yrs

Does not follow simple 2 step directions involving routine tasks

Does not accurately answer yes/no questions

Does not use "me" or "you" appropriately

Does not answer simple questions such as "who is that?"

Does not use 3-4 word sentences

An infographic with a light pink background. In the top left is a stylized yellow sun with rays. In the bottom left is a brown cartoon horse. In the center is a red pennant flag on a black pole, with green grass and orange/red leaves at its base. Eight purple circles of varying sizes are arranged around the central flag, each containing a text description of a developmental milestone.

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An infographic with a central red pennant flag on a black pole. The flag contains the text '4 to 5 Years'. Surrounding the pole are eight pink circles, each containing a behavioral trait. In the top left corner is a yellow sun with a white crescent. At the bottom is a patch of green grass with some colorful autumn leaves. The background is a light pink watercolor wash.

4 to 5 Years

Unable to
express wide
range of
emotions

Does not use
"me" and "you"
correctly

Exhibits
extremely
aggressive,
fearful or timid
behavior

Has
a difficult
time in social
or academic
type settings

Difficulty
cooperating
with peers or
participating in
group
activities

Seems "off
topic" or makes
inappropriate
remarks to
conversation

Hits rather
than using
words to work
through
conflicts

Avoids
other
children or
adults

An infographic with a central red banner on a black pole. The banner reads '4 to 5 Years'. Surrounding the pole are eight pink circles, each containing a developmental milestone. In the top left corner is a yellow sun with rays. At the bottom of the pole is a patch of green grass with some colorful autumn leaves. The background is a light pink watercolor wash.

4 to 5 Years

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Avoids
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children or
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References



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American Speech Language Hearing Association (ASLHA)

<http://www.asha.org/public/Early-Detection-of-Speech-Language-and-Hearing-Disorders/>

