



Hearing: Developmental Milestones

Hearing milestones refer to changes in the behavioral response to sound as the child grows and matures.



Babies and toddlers show a natural inclination towards music. They can detect changes in tempo, rhythm, and melody.

Birth-9 Months:

- Reacts to loud sounds
- Moves eyes & head to localize sounds
- Responds to voices by babbling

9-12 Months:

- Tries to communicate with actions, gestures, or signs
- Turns when their name is called
- Mimics sounds & attempts to imitate familiar sounds & words

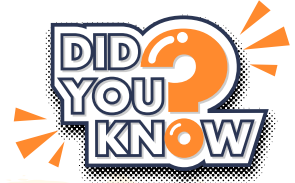


1-2 years:

- Enjoys being read to, can point to objects when you name them
- Can follow simple directions without gestures
- Shows interest in the sounds of the radio & TV
- Answers & asks simple questions
- Will say about 50 words at 2 years

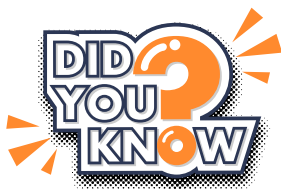
Milestones are significant markers in individual development, they allow us to monitor growth and identify potential areas of concern or intervention.

Rhymes and rhythmic patterns help children recognize and manipulate sounds in words.



2-3 years:

- Answers questions about a story
- Understands new words quickly
- Begins to use simple past tense verbs



Bilingual children often demonstrate cognitive flexibility which can lead to enhanced problem-solving skills.

3-4 years:

- Strangers can understand the majority of their speech
- Enjoys poems and using nonsense such as "the diaper goes on your head?"
- Comprehends auditory information in a variety of settings
- Accurately repeats sentences
- Uses most speech sounds, but may distort harder ones like: /l/ /r/ /a/ /sh/ /ch/ /y/ /z/ /th/





4-5 years:

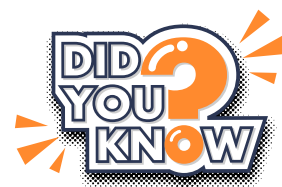
- Uses 200-300 different words
- Uses consonants in the beginning, middle, and end of words, may distort some harder words
- Listens attentively and retells stories accurately
- Hears and understands most of what is said at home or school
- Can follow longer 3 step directions.

5-6 years:

- Engages in conversation and use longer (8+ words)
- Understands rhyming, can provide a word that rhymes with a given word



Children with untreated hearing loss are at risk of social isolation and emotional difficulties due to communication barriers.



Check back for updates!



**Illinois Early Hearing
Detection & Intervention
Program**

