

2-Year-Old Speech Milestones Checklist

Expectations

Expressive (talking)

- ☐ Uses 50-200 words
- ☐ Combines 2-3 words into phrases (e.g., "more juice")
- ☐ Begins to use pronouns (e.g., "me", "you")

Receptive (understanding)

- ☐ Understands simple questions (e.g., "where's your shoe?")
- ☐ Follow two-step directions (e.g., "get your book and sit down")
- ☐ Understands action words (e.g., run, eat)

When to Take Action

Expressive (talking)

- ☐ Vocabulary under 50 words
- ☐ No new words being added
- ☐ Not combining words (e.g., "want ball")
- ☐ Limited gestures (e.g., not pointing or waving)
- ☐ Speech is unclear, even to familiar listeners (family/friends)

Receptive (understanding)

- ☐ Difficulty following simple directions
- ☐ Doesn't respond to their name



Additional Info

*Your child may not hit all of the above expected milestones by 2 years old, and that's okay! Below are some additional red flags related to their communication milestones. If you are feeling concerned about your child's development, reach out to your pediatrician about a referral to see a speech-language pathologist (SLP). Trust your gut!

- Regression in speech or language skills (losing words or skills they had).
- Limited social interaction (e.g., poor eye contact, disinterest in communication).
- Not attempting to communicate needs or engage in back-and-forth interactions.

