

*Every Person Deserves a Voice  
 Every Voice Deserves to be Heard*

# A Sound Start for Your Child's Hearing and Speech



## 0-3 months

*Does Your Child:*

- Stir or awaken when sleeping quietly and someone talks
- Recognize your voice and settle when you talk to them
- Sometimes startle or jump when there is a very loud sound, like a cough, or a dog bark
- Make pleasure sounds
- Have different cries for different needs
- Smile when they see you

## 4-6 months

*Does Your Child:*

- Babble for attention, use speech-like sounds including p, b, and m
- Turn their head toward voices and interesting sounds
- Enjoy toys that make sound or music
- Make gurgling sounds when left alone
- Participate in social games like “peek-a-boo”

## 7-12 months

*Does Your Child:*

- Respond to their name
- Imitate different speech sounds
- Understand a few names of people and objects
- Use gestures such as pointing, shaking head for “no”, and waving “bye-bye”
- Use one or two words even though they may not be clear

## 1-2 years

*Does Your Child:*

- Directly turn to a nearby sound
- Use different consonant sounds at the beginning of words
- Follow simple directions (“go get your coat”), and point to pictures in a book
- Understand simple questions and words without your help (pointing to the object)
- Say more words each month, use “no” or “not”, and ask questions
- Put two words together (“look doggie”, “juice mommy”)

## 2-3 years

*Does Your Child:*

- Continue to notice sounds (dog barking, children playing)
- Understand simple concepts (stop-go, up-down, big-little)
- Follow simple stories in books
- Understand two-step requests (“pick up the book and give it to daddy”)
- Have a word for almost everything and use sentences sometimes with as many as five words
- Take a number of turns in conversation

## 3-4 years

*Does Your Child:*

- Hear you when you call from another room
- Seem to hear sounds at the same loudness levels as other family members (television, music, etc.)
- Usually use sentences that have four or more words and understand questions like “what if...” and “how”
- Talk about their daily activities
- Follow longer stories
- Say most sounds correctly

## 4-5 years

*Does Your Child:*

- Hear and understand most of what is said in their preschool, school and home environments
- Understand the rules of conversation (listening and taking turns)
- Tell a story and stick to the topic
- Communicate easily with other children and adults

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Centre nearest you. [www.nshsc.ns.ca](http://www.nshsc.ns.ca)**