Communication Skills are the development of a child’s language skills including what is said and what is understood. Communication Skills consist of listening, verbal and non-verbal attempts to respond, eye contact, humor and expression of personality.

<table>
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<th>Age</th>
<th>Development</th>
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| 3 Months | Cries at an angry voice  
Squeals, laughs, gurgles and coos  
Cries when upset |
| 6 Months | Smiles or laughs when spoken to in a nice voice  
Stops crying when soothed  
Makes babbling sounds |
| 9 Months | Likes to copy sounds and facial expressions  
Likes it when he/she is copied |
| 12 Months | Says “mama” or “dada”  
Moves head in response “yes” or “no”  
Understands 2 word phrases |
| 18 Months | Understands simple questions (where is your nose?)  
Points to objects he/she knows |
| 2 to 3 Years | Responds to his/her name  
Says short sentences  
Says more than 50 words |
| 3 to 4 Years | Understands 900-1000 words  
Should understand 75% of what people say |
| 4 to 5 Years | Speaks in complete sentences and tells stories  
Follows 3 step directions & asks a lot of questions |

**What parents can do to help:**
- Talk with your child about “everything”, repeat often and listen to your child
- When cleaning up emphasize “put the <block> in the <box>”
- Read to your child often and ask many questions about the pictures
- Encourage your child to speak his/her needs verbally instead of just pointing
- Praise your child at each attempt to speak and repeat correctly what is said incorrectly to role model proper speech

Have fun communicating!

Contact your local Parent Link Programmer for more information