Area 6: Communication, Language and Emergent Literacy

Understands, processes and comprehends language (receptive vocabulary) 6.1

Birth-12 months

A Calms to voice of familiar adult 6.1.A

B Follows sounds with eyes 6.1.B

C Alerts to unexpected sound and changes in tone 6.1.C

D Smiles responsively 6.1.D

E Turns to locate sounds 6.1.E

F Responds to caregiver by turning, looking, reaching or vocalizing 6.1.F

G Recognizes their own name 6.1.G

H Responds to 'no' 6.1.H

I Connects verbal communication to object 6.1.I

J Understands simple, familiar words and gestures 6.1.J

Approximately 12-24 months

K Begins to demonstrate receptive language skills: 6.1.K

- a Understands approximately 50+ words 6.1.K.A
- b Points to familiar objects or body parts when asked 6.1.K.B
- c Follows simple directions 6.1.K.C

L Understands early prepositions like "in" or "on" 6.1.L

M Pauses briefly or stops when told "no" 6.1.M

Approximately 24-36 months

N Uses receptive language skills: 6.1.N

- a Understands approximately 300+ words 6.1.N.A
- b Follows 1-2 step directions 6.1.N.B
- c Understands simple opposite concepts 6.1.N.C
- d Understands simple who, what and where questions 6.1.N.D

Skip to main content

O Connects spoken words to pictures and objects distinguishing between words that sound similar 6.1.O

Approximately 3-4 years

P Demonstrates a rapid increase in receptive language skills: 6.1.P

- a Understands approximately 1,000- 3,000 words 6.1.P.A
- b Follows 2-3 step directions 6.1.P.B

Q Demonstrates understanding of vocabulary related to: 6.1.Q

- a Descriptive words 6.1.Q.A
- b Spatial concepts 6.1.Q.B
- c Quantity words 6.1.Q.C

Approximately 4-5 years

R Demonstrates more complex receptive language skills: 6.1.R

- a Understands approximately 4,200 words and expands to at least 10,000 by age of 5 6.1.R.A
- b Follows 3-4 step directions 6.1.R.B
- c Understands most of what is said at home and school 6.1.R.C

S Understands comparatives (-er) and superlatives (-est) 6.1.S

T Follows directions to play a game 6.1.T

Participates in communication exchanges with others (expressive vocabulary) 6.2

Birth-12 months

A Reflexive vocalization: 6.2.A

- a Reflexive cries 6.2.A.A
- b Whimpers 6.2.A.B
- c Burping/coughing 6.2.A.C

B Cries with discomfort 6.2.B

C Laughs aloud 6.2.C

D Uses vocalizations and gestures to gain attention from others: 6.2.D

- a Cooing 6.2.D.A
- b Vowel sounds 6.2.D.B
- c Babbling 6.2.D.C
- d Repetitive syllable strings 6.2.D.D
- e Consonant-vowel combinations 6.2.D.E

E Experiment with loudness, pitch, and noises 6.2.E

Responds to simple, familiar words, gestures and phrases 6.2.F

Says one or two words 6.2.G

Skip to main content

H Engages in turn-taking during social and vocal play with adults and other children 6.2.H

Approximately 12-24 months

I Establishes joint attention by looking at an object, at their caregiver and back at the object 6.2.I

J Varies syllable sequences and jargon leading to first words 6.2.J

K Points and gestures to communicate needs and emotions 6.2.K

L Responds to and initiates communication with another person 6.2.L

M Strings two words together and can form simple phrases 6.2.M

N Answers simple questions with simple words or wordlike formations 6.2.N

Approximately 24-36 months

O Puts words together to form simple sentences 6.2.O

P Participates in conversations: 6.2.P

- a Speech is understood by strangers 50% of the time 6.2.P.A
- b Has an expressive vocabulary of approximately 1,000 words 6.2.P.B
- c Communicates with at least two back and forth exchanges 6.2.P.C

Q Communicates wants and needs 6.2.Q

R Uses ‘me, I, we’ correctly 6.2.R

S Uses action words in spoken language 6.2.S

T Explains the purpose of objects or needs 6.2.T

Approximately 3-4 years

U Engages in conversations using phrases and sentences of increasing length and complexity: 6.2.U

- a Speech is understood by strangers 75% of the time 6.2.U.A
- b Has an expressive vocabulary of approximately 1,500 words 6.2.U.B
- c Communicates using 3-4 word sentences 6.2.U.C
- d Uses 2-3 back and forth exchanges 6.2.U.D

V Uses words ‘a’ or ‘the’ 6.2.V

W Understands and uses simple location and preposition words 6.2.W

X Increasingly uses past tense, word endings and possessives 6.2.X

Y Tells a story from a book or TV show 6.2.Y

Approximately 4-5 years

Skip to main content

Z Demonstrates knowledge of the rules of conversations: 6.2.Z

- a Speech is understood by strangers 90-100% of the time 6.2.Z.A
- b Has an expressive vocabulary of more than 2,000 words 6.2.Z.B
- c Takes turns while speaking and listening 6.2.Z.C
- d Engages with at least three back and forth exchanges 6.2.Z.D
- e Produces longer and more complex sentences which are grammatically correct 6.2.Z.E

AA Can tell a story that stays on topic 6.2.AA

BB Participates in group discussions making comments and asking questions related to the topic 6.2.BB

Engages in emergent reading experiences 6.3

Birth-12 months

A Attends to songs, tones, rhythms, voices and music 6.3.A

B Explores or shows interest in books: 6.3.B

- a Picks up 6.3.B.A
- b Mouths 6.3.B.B
- c Carries 6.3.B.C
- d Flips pages 6.3.B.D

C Looks at pictures of familiar people, animals or objects while an adult points at and/or names the person, animal or object 6.3.C

D Looks at the book or the reader when stories are read 6.3.D

Approximately 12-24 months

E Recognizes favorite book(s) 6.3.E

F Gazes at or points to pictures and turns pages in books 6.3.F

G Uses sounds, signs or words to identify actions or objects in a book 6.3.G

H Points at, gestures, says name of or talks about animals, people or objects in photos, pictures or drawings 6.3.H

I Begins to point at pictures in a book, making sounds or saying words and interacting with an adult reading a book 6.3.I

Approximately 24-36 months

J Asks for or brings favorite books to adults to read 6.3.J

K Pretends to read books by turning pages and talking about or using signs to describe what is happening in the book 6.3.K

L Points to, labels and/or talks about objects, events or people within books 6.3.L

Answers simple questions related to pictures of books 6.3.M

Skip to main content

N Talks about books, acts out events from stories and uses some vocabulary encountered during book reading 6.3.N

Approximately 3-4 years

O Expresses an interest in books and attempts to read familiar books 6.3.O

P Displays book handling knowledge by turning the book right side up and turning one page at a time 6.3.P

Q Shows beginning comprehension of a story: 6.3.Q

- a Talks about or acts out a few key events with support 6.3.Q.A
- b Answers basic questions about likes, dislikes, main characters or events 6.3.Q.B
- c Makes predictions about what might happen next with modeling and support 6.3.Q.C

R With support, may be able to tell two key events from a story or may act out a story with pictures or props 6.3.R

Approximately 4-5 years

S Shows increasing comprehension of a story 6.3.S

T Retells familiar stories with key events using some simple sequencing terms: 6.3.T

- a First 6.3.T.A
- b Then 6.3.T.B
- c Next 6.3.T.C

U With support, provides basic answers to specific questions about details of a story: 6.3.U

- a Who 6.3.U.A
- b What 6.3.U.B
- c When 6.3.U.C
- d Where 6.3.U.D

V With support, answers inferential questions about stories and makes predictions or how/why something is happening in a particular moment 6.3.V

Develops phonological sensitivity and awareness 6.4

Birth-12 months

A Coos and vocalizes vowel sounds 6.4.A

B Mimics speech patterns, babbles and coos when hearing caregivers sing or speak 6.4.B

C Begins to differentiate between speech and nonspeech sounds 6.4.C

Approximately 12-24 months

Babbles long strings of sounds 6.4.D

Skip to main content

E Responds to or engages in songs, rhyming games or finger plays with a familiar adult 6.4.E

F Mimics animal sounds and environmental noises 6.4.F

G Starts to recognize that a flow of speech is made of individual words 6.4.G

Approximately 24-36 months

H Enjoys and repeats songs, rhymes or finger plays 6.4.H

I Listens with intent and identifies sounds in their surroundings 6.4.I

J Fills in repetitive words in books after repeated readings 6.4.J

Approximately 3-4 years

K Plays with rhyme and alliteration 6.4.K

L Detects when words rhyme and start with same initial sound 6.4.L

M Imitates and/or mimics rhymes and beginning sounds 6.4.M

N Produces nonsense words and/or rhymes 6.4.N

O Begins to clap out syllables in simple words 6.4.O

Approximately 4-5 years

P Says most sounds correctly when speaking except for a few (l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th) 6.4.P

Q Produces the sound of some known letters 6.4.Q

R Blends and/or segments word parts or syllables to identify a word, object or picture 6.4.R

S Identifies the beginning sounds in words 6.4.S

T Identifies words that begin with the same sound 6.4.T

U Identifies words that rhyme from a group of 3-4 words 6.4.U

Develops print knowledge and emergent writing skills 6.5

Birth-12 months

A Grasps and/or manipulates a variety of objects in the environment 6.5.A

B Observes adult writing behaviors 6.5.B

Approximately 12-24 months

C Randomly scribbles 6.5.C

D Imitates other's writing or drawing by making their own marks on paper 6.5.D

Approximately 24-36 months

Skip to main content

E Develops increasingly controlled scribbles using a variety of writing tools: 6.5.E

a Lines 6.5.E.A

b Curves 6.5.E.B

c Repeated patterns 6.5.E.C

F Imitates and attempts to write 6.5.F

G Begins to understand writing and drawing can be a way of communicating 6.5.G

Approximately 3-4 years

H Uses scribbles, shapes, pictures, letter-like forms and/or letters in writing 6.5.H

I Understands writing serves a purpose and can describe the intended meaning of their own drawings and writing 6.5.I

J Recognizes environmental print with adult support: 6.5.J

a Letters are a symbol 6.5.J.A

b Letters can be named 6.5.J.B

c Letters make up words and words make up sentences 6.5.J.C

K Points to and names some letters, especially those in own name 6.5.K

Approximately 4-5 years

L Starts to write in left to right and top to bottom direction 6.5.L

M Writes in letter strings, especially using the letters in their own name 6.5.M

N Uses invented spelling with: 6.5.N

a Beginning sound(s) 6.5.N.A

b Ending sound(s) 6.5.N.B

c Logical sound substitution(s) 6.5.N.C

O Uses a combination of drawing, dictating or emergent writing to convey meaning through writing 6.5.O

P Shows an awareness of print: 6.5.P

a Locates print on the page 6.5.P.A

b Understands sentences are made of words and words are made of individual letters 6.5.P.B

c Follows print from left to right 6.5.P.C

Q Recognizes at least half upper and half lower case letters including letters in own name and letters seen frequently in the environment 6.5.Q