



# SPEECH PATHOLOGY DEVELOPMENTAL ALERT CHECKLIST

**Cognition, play, social and oral-motor skills are crucial for early speech and language development.**

Speech refers to the way sounds are produced and language refers to the way words are understood and put together. Use the following points as guidelines to identify developmental milestones and red flags for your child.

## 0-6 Months:

Children should begin to smile, laugh and respond to familiar voices. They will begin to vocalise excitement and displeasure, make cooing sounds and imitate movements and sounds. They will find games such as peek-a-boo enjoyable.

### Red Flags:

- Difficulties with feeding
- Does not make or respond to sound and has limited interaction

## 7-9 Months:

Children begin to vocalise and imitate gestures and sounds in play, recognise some words and begin to use gestures (waving good-bye). They will begin to respond to their name and respond with talking-like sounds during interactions.

### Red Flags:

- Does not babble or make sounds
- Limited or no response to others
- Does not play with objects

## 10-12 Months:

Children should begin to display moods, use objects appropriately (using a spoon to pick up food) and follow simple instructions (show me ...). They will begin to understand turn-taking, listen to stories and point to objects. They will begin to say their first words such as 'mama' and 'bye bye'.

### Red Flags:

- Does not use objects, gestures and/or words
- Does not engage in stories, songs or interactions

## 1-2 Years:

Children can understand and follow simple two-step instructions and begin to understand 'what' and 'where' questions. Able to say their first name and begin to use words to name objects. Will use one and two words phrases e.g. 'want milk' and imitate other children during play. They can identify different body parts and point to pictures. They make requests, vocabulary consists of about 50 words and can say the following sounds: m, n, p, b, h, w, t and d.

### Red Flags:

- Gets frustrated easily
- Unable to follow instructions
- Does not seek attention from others
- Limited Vocabulary



## Why is Early Intervention Important?

Many individuals may be misinformed that their children will grow out of their challenges with their communication and development. However, this is far from true. Most of the time, if these challenges are not addressed early enough they will become much harder to change and very engrained. This impacts on their social skills, communication, being understood by others, self-confidence and independence. It is key to support your child early and get help, so they can have a good foundation to become strong communicators, learners and confident individuals.

When should you get help? As soon as you notice any of these red flags. It's never too early or too late. If you have any doubts or questions, contact Artius today.

**Phone:** 1300 986 886  
**Fax:** 07 5502 7414  
**Email:** [health@artius.com.au](mailto:health@artius.com.au)

### 3-4 years:

By this age children are using 3-5 word phrases (e.g. the cat is sleeping), following two and three step instructions and understanding 'who', 'what' and 'where' questions. They are able to name colours, use pronouns (he/she), prepositions (in/on/under) and conjunctions (but/because/and) and asks many questions. Can say the following sounds: k, g, f, sh, v, s and j.

#### Red Flags:

- Unable to play
- Decreased participation
- Is not putting words together
- Is using one & two word phrases to communicate
- Unable to follow three step instructions

### 5-6 years:

Children can understand rhymes, jokes and stories and can answer simple questions about them. They begin to re-tell and make up imaginative stories and stay on topic. Able to follow three-four step instructions. They can count to 30, name the days of the week and construct longer, detailed sentences. Asking and answering questions and beginning to use adult-type speech. They can say the 'r' and 'l' sounds.

#### Red Flags:

- Not understood by others
- Stuttering
- Unable to hold a conversation or tell stories
- Does not understand or ask questions

### 6-7 Years

Children understand most concepts (before & after / same & different / beginning & end), can count to 100 and read and write simple sentences. They can say the 'th' sound.

#### Red Flags:

- Difficulty completing reading and writing tasks
- Gets frustrated and avoids written work, social interactions and play
- Difficulty with letter and number recognition

When reviewing the Artius checklist if you notice that one or more milestones are not being met this could be a sign of delayed development. Artius can provide a range of services to assist with your child's development.