

Vocabulary

A child's expressive vocabulary grows rapidly from the time of his first word at approximately 12 months, through first grade. Vocabulary increases throughout an individual's lifetime due to education, reading, and life experiences.

Age	Approximate Words in Expressive Vocabulary
12 months	2 to 6 words other than <i>mama</i> and <i>dada</i>
15 months	10
18 months	50
24 months	200-300
30 months	450
36 months (3 years)	1,000
42 months	1,200
48 months (4 years)	1,600
54 months	1,900
60 months (5 years)	2,200-2,500
6 years	2,600-7,000
12 years	50,000

We'd like to thank the following sources from which we obtained information for this section: the Child Development Institute (www.childdevelopmentinfo.com); Nicolosi, Harryman, & Kresheck (2006); and Owens (1996). For more information, please see the References, Websites, & Resources list on pages 22-24.

Questions

In language development, a child must be able to ask and answer questions in order to navigate a conversation and to seek and relay information. When assessing a child's ability to ask and answer questions, it is important to separate her content knowledge from her ability to ask or answer questions.

Answering Questions

Age	Milestones
1 – 2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Looks in the appropriate place when asked a simple question, such as "Where is Daddy?"Chooses an object with intentionality when asked about a choice of two, such as "Do you want milk or juice?"