Pathways	Speech & Language	Hearing & Understanding
BY 3 MONTHS	Makes eye contactCries differently for different needs, e.g. hungry vs. tiredCoos, goos, and smiles	Turns head toward sound or voiceQuiets or smiles when spoken toShows interest in faces
BY 6 MONTHS	 Begins babbling with p, b and m sounds Makes different kinds of sounds to express feelings Imitates sounds and facial expressions 	Listens and responds when spoken toFears loud or unexpected noisesNotices toys that make sounds
BY 9 MONTHS	 Uses many sounds in babbling Participates in two-way communication Begins using hand movements to communicate wants and needs, e.g. reaches to be picked-up 	 Responds to own name Looks at familiar objects and people when named Follows some routine commands paired with gestures
BY 12 MONTHS	 Says one or two words, e.g. "mama," "dada" Imitates speech sounds Babbling has sounds and rhythms of speech 	 Understands up to 50 words Responds to simple directions, e.g. "come here" Pays attention to where you are looking and pointing
BY 15 MONTHS	 May use 4 – 6 different words Imitates simple words and actions Combines sounds and gestures 	 Consistently follows simple directions Shows interest in pictures Can identify 1 – 2 body parts when named
BY 18 MONTHS	Uses 20 words (mostly nouns)Responds to questionsContinues to produce speech-like babbling	 Points at familiar objects and people in pictures Understands "in" and "on" Responds to yes/no questions with head shake/nod
BY 21 MONTHS	Uses at least 50 wordsConsistently imitates new wordsNames objects and pictures	 Understands simple emotion words (happy, sad) Understands simple pronouns (me, you, my) Identifies 3 – 5 body parts when named
BY 24 MONTHS	Uses words more than gesturesBegins to use 2-word phrasesUses simple pronouns (me, you, my)	Understands more than 300 wordsUnderstands action wordsEnjoys listening to stories
BY 30 MONTHS	 Consistently uses 2 – 3 word phrases Uses "in" and "on" At least 50% of speech is understood by caregiver 	 Follows 2-step directions, e.g. "Pick up your coat and bring it to me." Understands basic nouns, verbs, pronouns Understands "mine" and "yours"
BY 36 MONTHS	Asks "what" and "where" questionsUses plurals, e.g. "dogs"Most speech is understood by caregiver	 Understands opposites, e.g. "big" and "small" Simple understanding of concepts including color, space, time Understands "why" questions