

First Language Acquisition Timeline

0-6 Months	This is the pre-speech stage. While babies are not yet speaking their first words, they are learning to pay attention to sounds and they can recognize the distinctive phonemes of the language they have been hearing.
6-8 Months	This is when the babbling stage begins. The babies make various sounds that may or may not be attributed to the native language. This has been hypothesized as practicing-helping babies gain control over the motor functions involved. Dr. Patricia Kuhl states that it is around seven and a half months that a child goes from a “citizen of the world” to a “culture bound listener.”
9-18 Months	This is called the “holophrastic” or one word stage. The child begins to speak individual words. The first fifty words acquired are typically names of important people, greetings, foods, objects within a daily routine, and words used to change their environment, such as give, open, etc. Also, during this stage overextension often occurs. For example, a dog might be any four legged creature instead of a lamb, cow, etc.
18-24 Months	The two-word stage begins between these ages. A child will say a phrase two morphemes long. For example, “doggy bark” or “my doll”
24-30 Months	This stage, the telegraphic stage, is where the children will use multi-unit morphemes yet still leave out functional and grammatical words.
30+ Months	Children speak in sentences of several words, yet grammar is still incomplete. By the age of six, children are speaking mostly like an adult.