Pathways	Speech & Language	Hearing & Understanding
BY 3 MONTHS	Makes eye contactCries differently for different needs, e.g. hungry vs. tiredCoos and smiles	Turns head toward sound or voiceQuiets or smiles in response to sound or voiceShows interest in faces
6 MONTHS	 Begins to use consonant sounds in babbling, e.g. "da, da, da" Makes different kinds of sounds to express feelings Uses babbling to get attention 	Listens and responds when spoken toReacts to sudden noises or soundsNotices toys that make sounds
BY 9 MONTHS	 Imitates sounds Uses Increased variety of sounds and syllable combinations in babbling Participates in two-way communication 	Recognizes sound of their nameLooks at familiar objects and people when namedFollows some routine commands paired with gestures
12 MONTHS	Meaningfully uses "mama" or "dada"Imitates speech soundsBabbling has sounds and rhythms of speech	Responds to "no"Responds to simple directions, e.g. "come here"Pays attention to where you are looking and pointing
15 MONTHS	May use 5-10 wordsImitates simple words and actionsCombines sounds and gestures	Consistently follows simple directionsShows interest in picturesCan identify 1-2 body parts when named
18 MONTHS	Repeats words overheard in conversation Responds to questions Continues 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 pronouns (me, you, my)Understands new words quicklyIdentifies 3-5 body parts when named
BY 24 MONTHS	Uses gestures and words during pretend playBegins to use 2-word phrasesUses simple pronouns (me, you, my)	 Understands action words Follows 2-step related directions, e.g. "Pick up your coat and bring it to me." Enjoys listening to stories
30 MONTHS	Consistently uses 2-3 word phrasesUses "in" and "on"At least 50% of speech is understood by caregiver	Follows 2-step unrelated directions, e.g. "Give me the ball and go get your coat." Understands basic nouns and pronouns Understands "mine" and "yours"
BY 36 MONTHS *Remember to correct your child's age for prematurity.	Asks "what" and "where" questionsUses plurals, e.g. "dogs"Most speech is understood by caregiver	 Understands most simple sentences Simple understanding of concepts including color, space, time Understands "why" questions

