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**ALL CHILDREN DEVELOP SKILLS AT DIFFERENT PACES.
THESE ARE AVERAGE MILESTONE AT AGES UP TO 5 YEARS OLD:**

BY 12 MONTHS:

Says first Meaningful word
(usually coincides with a clear
index finger point)
Begins to associate a word with a
meaningful object like “mama”,
“bye bye”
Starts to point at objects and people
Imitates sounds and some words

BY 18 MONTHS:

20 word vocabulary
Can refer to himself by name
Uses items with its intended function
(ex. Tries to talk on the telephone
or bang a drum)
Begins to use words like “mine”
and “hi”

BY 24 MONTHS:

Has a 200-300 word vocabulary
Can name common objects
Uses 2 word sentences
(ex. Want juice)
Roll plays and imitates
(ex. May pretend to be mommy
vacuuming)
Likes to have attention on him
Can feed himself with a spoon
Gives a toy when asked

BY 3 YEARS:

Can use 3 word phrases
Has 900-1000 word vocabulary
Plays make-believe
Talks about events happening
in the present
Takes turns
Will bring toys to adults and
peers to play with
Asking questions like “What’s that?”
Matches some colors and understands
concepts such as “big” and “little”

BY 4 YEARS:

Has 1500 word vocabulary
Uses more complex sentences
Can name colors and numbers up
to 5 with relative ease
Can follow some directions
with prepositions
Can tell a recounting story

BY 5 YEARS:

Can talk about feelings
Can follow multistep directions
Has very accurate grammar
Enjoys playing with peers in groups
Asks higher level wh-questions like
“why” and “who”
Is able to make up imaginative stories