



Selected Language Development Milestones

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age	intelligibility	language comprehension	receptive vocabulary	expressive vocabulary	MLU	morphological feature
2;00	25%	1 ICW*	300	50-100	1.0-2.0	
2;06	60%	2 ICW	500-1000	300	2.0-2.5	present progressive <i>-ing</i> in on regular plural <i>-s</i>
3;00	75%		850-1500	600	2.5-3.0	irregular past tense possessive 's uncontractible copula
3;06	80%	3 ICW	1,200-2000	800-1,500	3.0-3.75	articles regular past tense <i>-ed</i> regular third person <i>-s</i>
4;00	90%	4 ICW	2100	850-1700	3.75-4.5	irregular third person uncontractible auxiliary contractible copula contractible auxiliary
5;00	100%	complex utterances	2,800	900-2,000	4.5+	

* **ICW** *Information Carrying Word*, i.e. the minimum number of words the child needs to understand in order to comprehend an utterance. For example, if presented with two sets of objects (1) key, ball, pencil, and (2) cup, box, purse, and instructed to "Put the key in the cup" the child needs to understand the two information carrying words *key* and *cup*. If the child can carry out this command successfully, he or she would be said to have demonstrated comprehension at a Two Information Carrying Word level (2ICW).