

Language Norms Quick Guide

This developmental information is a guide rather than fixed milestones. The approximate age ranges are drawn from a number of sources, including the textbooks of Wiig & Semel, Paul & Norbury, Owens and WordBank data from the Macarthur-Bates research group. There is expected variation between sources and individual children. Language sampling and sampling is influenced by language exposure, social, cultural and contextual factors. For this reason, the age ranges should be considered as general developmental patterns and likely sequences, rather than hard cut-offs for determining language skills. Interpretation should always consider the context and use information from multiple sources!

Age	Adjectives	Prepositions	Pronouns	Wh-questions	Coordinating Conjunctions	Subordinating Conjunctions
1:6-2:0	yucky yum	up	I me			
2;0-2;6	wet dirty hot cold big naughty asleep	in off down	my you he she them your	what	and	
2;6-3;0	little noisy sticky clean dry gentle careful nice pretty heavy quiet/loud soft/hard	on under out of away from	we you they	who where		

Language Norms Quick Guide

Age	Adjectives	Prepositions	Pronouns	Wh-questions	Coordinating Conjunctions	Subordinating Conjunctions
	fast/slow new/old empty/full good/bad first					
3;0–3;6	same hard some long	toward	him her his us	which	but	because
3;6–4;0	light high	in front of behind next to around	Its	when (emerging, often inconsistent) why (emerging)	or	if so when (emerging)
4;0–4;6	short last	beside	our (range to 5.0)			
4;6–5;0	thin different low			how how many/much (emerging)		after / before- (consolidating)

References

- Frank, M. C., Braginsky, M., Yurovsky, D., & Marchman, V. A. (2017). Wordbank: An open repository for developmental vocabulary data. *Journal of Child Language*, 44(3), 677–694. [doi:10.1017/S0305000916000209](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0305000916000209)
- Owens, R. E., Jr. (2020). *Language development: An introduction* (10th ed.). Pearson.
- Paul, R. & Norbury, C. (2024). *Language Disorders from Infancy though Adolescence* (6th Ed). Elsevier.
- Wiig, E. H., & Semel, E. M. (1984). *Language assessment and intervention for the learning disabled* (2nd ed.). Charles E. Merrill