

Patterns of Language Development in Internationally Adopted Children

(Summarized by Ana Paula G. Mumy, M.S., CCC-SLP; see reference below)

Research findings suggest using the following milestones to determine need for speech and language intervention for children adopted at:

0-12 months

- talking at chronological ages similar to English-speaking peers
- beginning use of two-word phrases
- receptive and expressive abilities close to age level by 24 months and at age level by 30-36 months

13-18 months

- rapid expressive vocabulary growth within first few months of adoption
- production of 50 words and two-word phrases by 24 months
- developmental gap in receptive and expressive language abilities closing by 37-40 months

19-24 months

- rapid expressive vocabulary growth
- use of multiple English words by 24 months
- use of 50 words by 28 months
- frequent use of two-word phrases by 31 months
- similar language development as in children adopted at 13-18 months by age 34-36 months

25-30 months

- immediate use of English words within first few weeks
- rapid expressive vocabulary growth
- production of 50 words and frequent use of two-word phrases by 31 months
- vocabulary levels close to those of children adopted at earlier ages by 37-40 months

Glennen, S. (2002, November). Language development and delay in internationally adopted infants and toddlers: A review. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, 11*, 333-339.

Glennen, S. & Masters, M. G. (2002, November). Typical and atypical language development in infants and toddlers adopted from Eastern Europe. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, 11*, 417-433.