

The Young Children's Program provides an environment designed to help each child
• Grow in the ability to use language effectively (GOAL 5)

**Adapted from LANGUAGE AND LITERACY,
Milestones of Child Development, VA Early Childhood Development Alignment Project, 2007**

Listening and Speaking

	36-48 mo	Demonstrate increased understanding of oral language through actions and responses to directions and questions	
	36-48 mo	Progress in abilities to initiate and respond appropriately in conversation and discussions with peers and adults	
	48 mo+	Progress in clarity of pronunciation and toward speaking in sentences of increasing length and grammatical complexity	
	48 mo+	Develop increasing abilities to understand and use language for a variety of purposes	
	48 mo+	Enjoy hearing and creating humorous stories characterized by exaggeration	

Phonological Awareness and Alphabetic Knowledge

	36-48 mo	Begin to identify words that rhyme	
	36-48 mo	Show growing ability to discriminate and identify sounds	
	48 mo+	Identify matching sounds and produce original rhymes	
	48 mo+	Show growing ability to hear and discriminate separate syllables in words	
	48 mo+	Show growing awareness of beginning and ending sounds of words	
	48 mo+	Develop beginning awareness of alphabet letters	
	48 mo+	Recognize that sounds are associated with letters of the alphabet and that they form words	
	48 mo+	Understand that letters of the alphabet are a special category of visual graphics that can be individually named	
	48 mo+	Laugh at and create silly words while exploring phonology	

Print Awareness and Concepts

	36-48 mo	Show growing awareness of the different functions of forms of print such as signs, letters, newspapers, lists, messages, and menus	
	36-48 mo	Show growing interest in reading-related activities	
	48 mo+	Show increased awareness of print concepts	
	48 mo+	Recognize a word as a unit of print that is formed by individual letters	
	48 mo+	Read some environmental print	

Comprehension

	36-48 mo	Show increased comprehension and response to stories read aloud	
	36-48 mo	Recall specific characters or actions from familiar stories	
	48 mo+	Demonstrate understanding of basic plots of simple stories in a variety of ways	
	48 mo+	Begin to understand the connection between books and personal experiences	
	48 mo+	Understand the main idea of simple information	
	48 mo+	Use strategies such as questioning or predicting to comprehend printed material	
	48 mo+	Attempt, often unsuccessfully, to create jokes by using the method of making jokes based on double meanings of words	

Early Writing

	36-48 mo	Use scribbles and unconventional shapes to convey messages	
	36-48 mo	Represent ideas and stories through pictures, dictation, and play	
	36-48 mo	Experiment with a growing variety of writing tools and materials, such as pencils, crayons, and computers	
	48 mo+	Use letter-like shapes , symbols, and letters to convey meaning	
	48 mo+	Understand purposes for writing	
	48 mo+	Begin to use familiar words (e.g., mom, love) in writing and drawing	