

WHAT STAGE OF COMMUNICATION IS MY CHILD?

EXPRESSES

Makes sounds that will eventually turn into words.
Smiles or turns their head to familiar faces and voices.

Discoverer

Reacts to how they feel & what's happening

UNDERSTANDS

Doesn't yet understand words but starts to anticipate what's next in routines, especially when you use the same words repeatedly.

"Talking" is all sounds but no actual words.
Points, makes sounds, or looks at an object and then you.

Communicator

Sends specific messages without words

Understands they can make things happen, like raising their arms to be picked up.

Uses single word to express a whole message.
May use simpler versions of words, eg nana for banana.

First Word User

Uses single words to talk about their world

Understands simple directions like "get your cup" especially if you use gestures.

Makes the leap to two-word phrases like "more juice," "want teddy," or "mommy up."

Combiner

Combines 2 or 3 words into sentences

Understands simple questions that begin with where, what, and when.