

First Language Acquisition

Languages

The stages every child passes through, and roughly when.

Typical ages. Wide individual variation is normal.

Stage	Age	What happens
Cooing	2–4 months	Vowel-like sounds
Babbling	6–9 months	Consonant-vowel repetition
First words	10–15 months	Single words with meaning
Two-word stage	18–24 months	'more milk', 'daddy go'
Telegraphic	2–3 years	Content words, few function words
Complex	3–5 years	Clauses, questions, past tense

Over-regularisation — 'goed', 'foots' — is a sign of progress: the child has extracted the rule and is applying it.