50 Measureable Receptive Language Goals by Age

Evidenced-Based Goals Using the 5-Part Formula

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6-9 months (5 goals)

Goal 1: Name Recognition	"When child's name is called by familiar caregiver from 3 feet away during alert state, child will turn head toward speaker within 3 seconds, 4/5 times daily across 3 days, per parent tracking sheet."
Goal 1: Name Recognition	"When familiar caregiver speaks from outside child's view, child will orient body/head toward voice source within 5 seconds, 3/5 opportunities across different times of day, measured by parent checklist."
Goal 3: Environmental Sound Response	"When common household sound occurs (doorbell, dog bark, phone ring), child will pause activity and look toward sound source within 3 seconds, for 4/6 different sounds weekly, per parent observation log."
Goal 4: "No" Comprehension	"When caregiver says 'no' with neutral tone during unsafe behavior, child will pause action briefly (1-2 seconds), 3/5 times across 2 different contexts daily, tracked on safety response chart."
Goal 5: Routine Word Anticipation	"During familiar routine (bottle, bath, bed), when caregiver says routine word, child will show anticipatory behavior (increased movement, vocalization, reaching), 4/5 times per routine across 5 days, via routine checklist."

9-12 months (5 goals)

Goal 6: Simple Gesture Commands	"When caregiver says 'come here' with arms extended, child will move toward caregiver within 5 seconds, 4/5 times daily across 3 different locations, per parent tracking form."
Goal 7: Object Name Recognition	"When 2 familiar objects are present and caregiver asks 'Where's the [object]?' without pointing, child will look at/touch named object within 5 seconds, for 3/5 common objects, measured by weekly probe."
Goal 8: Family Member Identification	"When familiar family member is present and their name/title is called ('Where's Daddy?'), child will look at/point to person within 3 seconds, for ¾ family members across 5 opportunities, per family interaction log."
Goal 9: Wave Bye-Bye	"When caregiver says 'bye-bye' during departure routine without modeling, child will attempt waving gesture within 5 seconds, 4/5 departure opportunities across 1 week, tracked on social routine chart."
Goal 10: Give Me Response	"When caregiver extends hand and says 'give me' while child holds object, child will extend object toward caregiver within 5 seconds, 3/5 times daily across different objects, via parent data collection."

12-15 months (7 goals)

Goal 11: One-Step Routine Direction	*"During daily routines, when given single-step direction related to routine ('sit down,' 'come here,' 'stand up') without gestures, child will comply within 10 seconds, 5/7 different directions with 70% accuracy."*
Goal 12: Body Part Identification - Self	*"When asked 'Where's your [body part]?' during dressing/bathing without pointing, child will touch/look at own body part within 5 seconds, for 3/5 basic parts (nose, tummy, feet, hands, eyes), measured biweekly."*
Goal 13: Common Object Retrieval	*"When caregiver requests familiar object by name ('Get your shoe/cup/ball') with object visible but 3+ feet away, child will retrieve correct object, 4/6 objects with 70% accuracy across 5 days, per object retrieval log."*
Goal 14: Pet/Animal Name Recognition	*"When family pet or toy animal is named without pointing, child will look at/move toward pet/toy within 5 seconds, 4/5 times across 3 daily opportunities, tracked on animal recognition chart."*
Goal 15: Stop Command	When engaged in activity and caregiver says 'stop' without physical intervention, child will cease current action within 3 seconds, 4/5 times across different activities daily, per behavior response tracking."
Goal 16: Book Interactions Commands	"During book reading, when caregiver says 'turn page' or 'close book' without gesturing, child will attempt action within 5 seconds, 3/5 commands per reading session across 5 sessions, via literacy interaction checklist."
Goal 17: Clothing Item Recognition	"During dressing routine, when caregiver names clothing item before putting on ('Here's your shirt/sock/shoe'), child will look at/reach for item, 4/6 items across 3 dressing sessions, per dressing routine tracker."

15-18 months (8 goals)

Goal 18: Name Recognition	"When child's name is called by familiar caregiver from 3 feet away during alert state, child will turn head toward speaker within 3 seconds, 4/5 times daily across 3 days, per parent tracking sheet."
Goal 19: Name Recognition	"When familiar caregiver speaks from outside child's view, child will orient body/head toward voice source within 5 seconds, 3/5 opportunities across different times of day, measured by parent checklist."
Goal 20: Environmental Sound Response	"When common household sound occurs (doorbell, dog bark, phone ring), child will pause activity and look toward sound source within 3 seconds, for 4/6 different sounds weekly, per parent observation log."
Goal 21: "No" Comprehension	"When caregiver says 'no' with neutral tone during unsafe behavior, child will pause action briefly (1-2 seconds), 3/5 times across 2 different contexts daily, tracked on safety response chart."
Goal 22: Routine Word Anticipation	"During familiar routine (bottle, bath, bed), when caregiver says routine word, child will show anticipatory behavior (increased movement, vocalization, reaching), 4/5 times per routine across 5 days, via routine checklist."
Goal 23: Clean Up Response	*"When caregiver says 'clean up' and points to toys, child will put at least 2 items in container within 30 seconds, 3/5 clean-up times across 3 days, tracked on transition chart."*
Goal 24: Size Differentiation	*"When presented with big and little versions of same object and asked for 'big/little [object],' child will select correct size within 5 seconds, 3/5 object pairs with 60% accuracy, measured during structured play."*
Goal 25: Hot/Cold Comprehenion	*"When caregiver says 'hot' before potentially warm item (food, water), child will show caution behavior (pull back, wait, blow), 3/5 opportunities across different contexts over 1 week, per safety comprehension log."*

18-24 months (10 goals)

Goal 26: Two-Step Related Directions	"During familiar activities, when given 2-step related direction ('Get your cup and bring it here') without gestures, child will complete both steps within 20 seconds, 4/6 direction sets with 70% accuracy, tracked on direction-following chart."
Goal 27: Picture Identification in Books	"During book reading, when asked 'Show me the [item]' without adult pointing, child will point to correct picture within 5 seconds, 10/15 common items across 3 different books, per literacy tracking form."
Goal 28: Pronoun Comprehension	"When caregiver uses 'my/your' in requests ('Get MY shoe' vs 'Get YOUR shoe'), child will retrieve correct item, 4/6 opportunities with 70% accuracy across 5 days, via pronoun comprehension checklist."
Goal 29: Emotion Word Response	"When caregiver labels emotion and suggests action ('You're sad, need a hug?'), child will accept/seek comfort appropriately, 3/5 emotional situations across 1 week, tracked on emotional comprehension log."
Goal 30: Quantity Concepts	"When asked for 'one' or 'more' during snack/play without gestures, child will respond appropriately (take one, request additional), 5/7 opportunities with 70% accuracy over 5 days, per concept tracker."
Goal 31: Color Matching Response	"When given colored object and asked to 'put with same,' child will place with matching color within 10 seconds, 3/5 colors with 60% accuracy across 3 sessions, measured during structured activity."

Goal 32: Absent Object Understanding	"When asked about absent familiar item/person ('Where's Daddy?' when at work), child will look toward usual location or use gesture/word to indicate absense, 4/5 queries over 3 days, per absence comprehenion chart."
Goal 33: Descriptor Identification	"When presented with objects and asked for descriptive feature ('soft one,' 'wet one,' 'bumpy one'), child will select correct item within 8 seconds, 5/8 descriptors with 60% accuracy, tracked during sensory play."
Goal 34: Routine Sequence Comprehension	"When told next routine step before transition ('First shoes, then outside'), child will move toward first step within 10 seconds, 4/6 routine sequences daily with 70% accuracy, via transition tracking sheet."
Goal 35: Negation Understanding	"When caregiver uses 'not' or 'no more' in context ('NOT this one,' 'No more crackers'), child will respond appropriately (select different item, stop requesting), 5/7 opportunities with 70% accuracy over 1 week, per negation log."

24-30 months (10 goals)

Goal 36: Three-Choice Discrimination	"When shown 3 objects/pictures and asked to identify one without pointing cues, child will select correct item within 5 seconds, 12/15 items with 80% accuracy across 5 sessions, using standardized assessment materials."
Goal 37: Preposition Following	"When given direction with preposition ('Put ball under table,' 'Put cup on chair') without gestures, child will place object correctly within 10 seconds, 6/8 different prepositions with 75% accuracy, tracked on spatial concept form."
Goal 38: Two-Step Unrelated Direction	"When given 2-step unrelated direction ('Close the door and get your shoes') without gestures, child will complete both within 30 seconds, 5/8 direction pairs with 60% accuracy over 1 week, per complex direction tracker."
Goal 39: Function Identification	"When asked 'Which one do we [function]?' (cut with, drink from, wear), child will select correct object from field of 3 within 8 seconds, 8/10 functions with 80% accuracy, measured during functional play assessment."
Goal 40: Possessive Comprehension	"When asked about possessives ('Where's Mommy's cup?' 'Get sister's toy'), child will identify/retrieve correct item, 5/7 possessive constructions with 70% accuracy across 5 days, via possessive tracking chart."
Goal 41: Time Concept Response	When caregiver uses time words ('later,' 'after nap,' 'tomorrow') in context, child will show understanding through waiting or appropriate response, 4/6 time concepts across various contexts over 1 week, per temporal concept log."
Goal 42: Category Sorting Response	"When asked to 'give all the [category]' (animals, foods, vehicles) from mixed array, child will select ¾ correct items within 20 seconds, 4/6 categories with 70% accuracy, tracked during categorization activities."

Goal 43: Story Comprehension Actions	"After 3-sentence story, when asked simple question ('Where did bear go?'), child will point to/name correct response, 4/6 story questions with 60% accuracy across 3 story sessions, per narrative comprehension tracker."
Goal 44: Plural Comprehension	"When asked for 'one sock' vs 'socks' or 'the cup' vs 'cups,' child will take appropriate number, 6/8 opportunities with 75% accuracy across different object types over 5 days, via morphology checklist."
Goal 45: Complex Descriptor Combinations	"When asked for item with 2 descriptors ('big red ball,' 'little blue car'), child will select correct item from array of 4 within 8 seconds, 5/8 combinations with 60% accuracy, measured during structured play."

30-36 months (5 goals)

Goal 46: Three-Step Direction Sequences	"During activities, when given 3-step direction sequence without gestures, child will complete all steps in order within 45 seconds, 4/6 sequences with 60% accuracy over 1 week, tracked on complex direction form."
Goal 47: Question Word Comprehension	"When asked different WH-questions about familiar situations (who, what, where), child will respond appropriately within 10 seconds, 7/10 questions with 70% accuracy across various contexts, per question comprehension log."
Goal 48: Comparative Understanding	"When asked for comparative ('bigger one,' 'shorter one,' 'heavier one') from 2-3 choices, child will select correct item within 8 seconds, 6/8 comparatives with 75% accuracy, tracked during comparison activities."
Goal 49: Complex Spatial Relations	"When given direction with complex spatial term ('between,' 'behind,' 'in front of,' 'next to'), child will place/retrieve object correctly within 10 seconds, 5/7 spatial relations with 70% accuracy, via spatial concept assessment."
Goal 50: Narrative Sequence Following	"When given 3-part narrative instruction ('First wash hands, then eat snack, then read book'), child will complete sequence with 1 reminder maximum, 3/5 narrative sequences with 60% accuracy over 1 week, per sequence following chart."

How to Use These Goals

Customization Steps:	1. **Select** age-appropriate goal 2. **Adjust** criterion based on child's current level 3. **Modify** context to match family routines 4. **Simplify** tracking method if needed 5. **Specify** materials family already has
Remember:	• *Start with baseline data* • *Adjust percentages based on child's current performance* • *Make sure parents can implement tracking* • *Review and revise every 30-60 days* • *Celebrate small wins!*

Formula Reminder:

[Condition] + **[Specific Behavior]** + **[Criterion]** + **[Context]** + **[Measurement Method]**

Every goal above follows this formula and can be modified to meet individual needs.

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