

Sentence Structure Development

MLU	Age in Months	Declarative Sentence Structure	Use of Negation	Interrogative Development	Use of Embedded Clauses	Use of Conjoining
1-1.5	12-22	Agent + Action Action + Object <i>"Mommy go, give doggy"</i>	Single Word: NO, ALL GONE, GONE	Yes/No questions with a rising intonation on the single word; What, where		Serial naming without AND
1.5-2	22-26	Subject + Verb + Object <i>"baby want milk"</i>	No and Not used interchangeably	What doing? questions	Prepositions IN and ON	Use of AND
2-2.25	27-28	Subject + Copula + Complement <i>"I am big"</i>		Where going? questions	Use of GONNA, WANNA, GOTTA, etc.	
2.25-2.50	28-30	Basic subject + verb + object used by most children <i>"Doggy go home"</i>	NO, NOT, DON'T, CAN'T can be used interchangeably; negative element between subject and predicate	Inversion with copula in what/where + copula + subject		
2.5-2.75	31-32	Subject + auxiliary + verb + object <i>"Doggy going home"</i> Auxiliary verbs: CAN, HAVE, WILL, BE appear		Auxiliary verbs DO, CAN, WILL begin to appear in questions; inversion of the subject and auxiliary verbs appear in yes/no questions		BUT, SO, OR, AND, IF appear
2.75-3.0	33-34	Auxiliary verbs with copula in subject + auxiliary + copula + X <i>"Doggy is going home"</i>	Use of WON'T			
3.0-3.5	35-37		Negative use with auxiliary verbs	Inversion of auxiliary verb and subject in wh?	Object noun + phrase complements appear with verbs such as THINK, GUESS, SHOW. wh-question embedded	Clausal conjoining with AND appears, use of BECAUSE appears

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3.5-3.75	38-40	Double auxillary verbs used subject+aux+ aux+ verb+X <i>"Daddy is going to give me a doggy."</i>	Use of: ISN'T, AREN'T, DOESN'T, DIDN'T	Inversion of copula and subject in yes/no questions Use of: WHEN, HOW	Infinitive phrases appear at the end of sentences <i>"To give me a doggy"</i>	
3.75-4.5	41-46	Indirect object appears in subj+ aux+ Verb+ ind.obj+ obj <i>"My daddy is giving my brother the doggy."</i>	Use of: WASN'T, WOULDN'T, COULDN'T, SHOULDN'T	Some adult like tag questions appear	Relative clauses appear	Clausal conjoining with IF appears; three clause declaratives appear
4.5+	47+	 <i>"My daddy isn't giving nobody a dog because my mommy doesn't want a dog."</i>	Adds indefinite forms including NOBODY, NO ONE, NONE, NOTHING May still have difficulty with double negatives	Full sentence WHY questions appear	Gerund appear Relative clauses attached to a subject, embedding, and conjoining appear within the same sentence at an MLU of 5.0	Clausal conjoining with BECAUSE appears with WHEN, BUT, SO beyond an MLU Of 5.0