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DEER SPEECH THERAPY

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's First Words

English Word List

	Word	Child's approximation	Date	Child says with meaning? y/n	Consistent use or occasional use?	Notes
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Other Language(s) Word List

Language(s) spoken: _____

	Word Meaning in English	Word in other language	Child's approximation	Date	Child says with meaning? y/n	Consistent use or occasional use?	Notes – If multiple lang. spoken indicate which language
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Information About Obtaining a First Word List

- It is good to keep track of the words your child says. You can share this list with family members, teachers, therapists, doctors, etc. You might get asked about this when your child is getting an evaluation or at a doctor’s appointment.
- Keep list in an easy to update place for you. You might print it out and keep on the refrigerator, save an electronic copy on a shared hard drive for multiple people to update, etc.
- One list is for English and one is for additional languages. If your child is using sign language, you might use the second list to keep track of signs.
- Count a consistent speech production with meaning as a word even if it is different than what the target sounds like in adult speech. For example: the child might say “deedee” for “doggie”.
- Some children express words consistently after they say it the first time. Other times, you might hear a child say a word one day and then either hear it occasionally afterwards or not again. Frequency of use may change over time.
- A child might only say specific words in certain circumstances. For example, the child might only say “up” when climbing up a ladder for a slide but not say it to be picked up. Or maybe the child only imitates it but doesn’t say spontaneously. You can indicate additional information like this in the “notes” section.
- Animal noises and environmental noises count as “words” when paired consistently with the animal or other.
- As child’s vocabulary grows keep track of the types of words. Are they all nouns? People names? Verbs? Adjectives?

Typical Expressive Vocabulary Development	
<i>Age</i>	<i>Approximate Words in Expressive Vocabulary</i>
12 months / 1 year	2-6 words other than “mama” & “dada”
15 months	10
18 months	50
24 months / 2 years	200-300
30 months	450
36 months / 3 years	1,000
42 months	1,200
48 months / 4 years	1,600
54 months	1,900
60 months / 5 years	2,200 – 2,500
6 years	2,600 – 7,000
12 years	50,000

Nicolosi, Harryman, & Kresheck (2006); and Owens (1996)