

Table 1

Communicative Function Code Definitions

		Major Code	Subcode	Example
Earlier Emerging	13-15 mo. (Carpenter, Mastergeorge, & Coggins, 1983)	Responding	Verbal or nonverbal reply or response to questions	“Yes” or nodding of head in response
	10-12 mo. (Ninio & Snow, 1996)		Positive reinforcement or encouragement in response to action	“Good job!”
	10-12 mo. (Ninio & Snow, 1996)		Verbal imitation of another’s utterance	Child: “Yipee!” Mom: “Yipee!”
			Responses used to maintain the interaction or indicate understanding	“Uh-huh”, or “Okay”, or “I hear you”
8-9 mo. (Carpenter, et al., 1983)	Self-maintaining	Communicating to meet the speaker’s needs to protect territory, property, or interests	“This is my space!” or “I want some ice cream.”	
10-12 mo. (Ninio & Snow, 1996)		Criticizing others	“You’re always acting silly.”	
		Expressing emotions	“I’m sad.”	
10-12 mo. (Ninio & Snow, 1996)	Directing	Collaborating in actions with others including negotiating of presence and negotiating mutual attention	“Can I play?” or “Look at this.”	
10-15 mo. (Bates, Camaioni & Volterra, 1975)		Guiding or controlling the listener’s actions	“Turn it.” or “Stop!”	
10-14 mo. (Ninio & Snow (1996)		Guiding one’s own actions	Requesting information	“I go this way.”
3:6-5:7 for <i>indirect</i> Requests for Action (Garvey, 1975)				
9-10 mo. (Carpenter, et al. 1983)				
32 mo. (Ninio & Snow, 1996)	Reporting	Labeling	“How do I do it?”	
16-36 mo. (USDHHS, 2015)				
10-15 mo. (Dore, 1975)				“That’s a dog.”
8-36 mo. (USDHHS, 2015)				

	9-13 mo. (Carpenter, et al., 1983)		Reference to details	“The lion is brown.”
	9-13 mo. (Carpenter, et al., 1983)		Reference to an activity, incident, or reflection on an event	“I went to the park.” or “She keeps coming in here.”
			Reference to sequence	“One, two, three...” or “First he sits, stands, then last he walks.”
Later	after 32 mo. (Ninio & Snow, 1996)	Reasoning	Expressing cause-effect or dependent relationships	“When you turn this knob, it goes up.”
Emerging	48-60 mo. (USDHHS, 2015)		Explaining a process	“So you have to go left to get to the circle.”
	48-60 mo. (USDHHS, 2015)		Justifying actions or behaviors	“I shook it because it was messed up.”
	48-60 mo. (USDHHS, 2015)		Making comparisons	“It looks like that block.”
	48-60 mo. (USDHHS, 2015)		Questioning to scaffold and promote understanding	“What shape do you think goes there?”
	16-36 mo. (USDHHS, 2015)		Identifying a problem	“It’s too big for that.”
	16-36 mo. (USDHHS, 2015)		Identifying a solution to a problem	“Smaller one can fit.”
	3-5 years old (Hudson, Shapiro, & Sosa, 1995; Hudson & Fivush, 1991; Lucariello, Hudson, & Fivush, 2004)	Predicting	Using language to anticipate events or to get another person to anticipate events	“I’m going to have stew for dinner.” or “We’re going to play with puppets later.”
	16-36 mo. (USDHHS, 2015; Ninio & Snow, 1996)			
	36 mo. 48-60 mo. (USDHHS, 2015)	Projecting	Expressing how others might feel or describing situations not experienced by the speaker	“That must make you sad” or “Giraffes must get scared of lions.”
	25-30 mo. social pretend play scripts (Bretherton 1984; Gearhart 1983; Howes, Unger, & Matheson, 1992; Nelson & Seidman 1984)	Imagining	Using language in the process or act of pretending	“Roar! I’m Mr. Lion and am eating you!”
	16-36 mo. (USDHHS, 2015)			