

Core Vocabulary

From toddlers to seniors, core words make up 80 percent or more of everyday communication and are the heart of language development. Below is a list of the most frequently used words used by toddlers as identified in a study carried out to identify the words we use most frequently:

Toddlers' Vocabulary
 Arranged by Frequency

Reference: Banajee, M., Dicarlo, C., & Stricklin, S. B. (2003). Core vocabulary determination for toddlers. *Augmentative and Alternative Communication*, 19, 67-73.

The core words on this list comprise 96.3% of the total words used by toddlers in the study conducted by Banajee, Dicarlo, and Stricklin.

Words	Percentage
1. I	9.5%
2. no	8.5
3. yes/yeah	7.6
4. the	5.2%
5. want	5.0%
6. is	4.9%
7. it	4.9%
8. that	4.9%
9. a	4.6%
10. go	4.4%
11. my	3.8%
12. mine	3.8%
13. you	3.2%
14. what	3.1%
15. on	2.8%
16. in	2.7%
17. here	2.7%
18. more	2.6%
19. out	2.4%
20. off	2.3%
21. some	2.3%
22. help	2.1%
23. all done/finished	1.0%
TOTAL	96.3%