

Typical Speech and Language Development

Preschool-Kindergarten

At age 3, the following skills should be emerging. By age 6, skills should be mastered.

Receptive Language

- ✓ Understand increasingly complex sentences.
- ✓ Understand increasingly large vocabulary (including understanding of most words used to label things in familiar environments such as at home and at school).
- ✓ Listen/attend to language for increasingly longer periods of time (when books are read, during games, during conversations with adults and other children, etc).
- ✓ Consistently respond to their names, requests for action or information
- ✓ Understand many types of questions ("Yes or No?" "Who?" "What?" "Where?" "Why?" "Yes or No?") and understand what type of response is required.
- ✓ Can hear and understand most of what is said at home and in school.
- ✓ Follow 1-2 simple directions in sequence.

Expressive Language

- ✓ Use verbal language to communicate for many purposes, such as: expressing wants and needs, ideas, opinions, feelings, talking about things in view and out of view, talking about new and varied topics, and for telling stories.
- ✓ Use increasingly large number of words (including ability to name most items in familiar environments such as at home and at school).
- ✓ Ask questions and make comments related to the topic of discussion.
- ✓ Describe experiences and create and /or retell stories.
- ✓ Start, maintain, and end conversations with other children and adults appropriately.
- ✓ Use a lot of sentences that have 4 or more words.

- ✓ Use the same grammar as the rest of the family.

Speech Intelligibility

- ✓ By 36 months a child's speech is normally 75-100% intelligible
- ✓ People outside the family usually understand child's speech
- ✓ Say most sounds correctly (except, for some children, sounds such as l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th)