

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE MILESTONES CHECKLIST



This Learning Links checklist provides guidance on when to expect your preschool-aged child to meet different speech and language milestones

Intelligibility

3-4 Years

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Strangers can understand a little to half of what they say

4-5 Years

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Strangers can understand a lot of what they say

5+ Years

☐

Strangers can understand most of what they say

Speech Sounds

3-4 Years

☐

Can make the sounds p, b, m, d, n, h, t, k, g, w, ng, f, y,

4-5 Years

☐

Can make the sounds l, j, ch, s, v, sh, z

5-6 Years

☐

Can make the sounds r, zh, th (voiced) (as in 'there' or 'mother')

6-7 Years

☐

Can make the th (voiceless) sound (as in 'thing' or 'bath')

3-4 Years

- ☐ Say 4-5 words in a sentence
- ☐ Use -ed words to talk about something in the past (e.g. I 'goed' there)
- ☐ Ask 'what', 'where', 'why' and 'who' questions

4-5 Years

- ☐ Make longer sentences using connecting words like 'and' or 'because'
- ☐ Describe recent events like morning routine
- ☐ Ask lots of questions
- ☐ Start to use negatives like 'no', 'can't' and 'don't'
- ☐ Use some colour words and count to 5

5-6 Years

- ☐ Tell short, simple stories with a beginning, middle and end
- ☐ Use words related to time sequences like 'before', 'then' and 'after'
- ☐ Use past and future tense correctly (e.g. 'I ate' and 'I will eat')

3-4 Years

- ☐ Follow two-part instructions
- ☐ Understand some simple questions
- ☐ List categories of items such as animals or fruits

4-5 Years

- ☐ Understand 'wh' questions - 'who', 'what', 'when', 'where', 'why'
- ☐ Recognise that some words start with the same sound
- ☐ Recognise simple rhyming like 'cat', 'hat' and 'mat'
- ☐ Start to understand some numbers

5-6 Years

- ☐ Follow three-part instructions
- ☐ Start to recognise some letter-sound relationships
- ☐ Start to think about the meaning of words





HOW CAN LEARNING LINKS HELP?

FREE Speech and Language Screeners*

If you have concerns about your child's progress with reaching speech and language milestones, Learning Links' speech pathologists can perform a quick, 30-minute speech and language screener to identify whether your child's communication development is on track or if they need additional support in some areas.

Screening for preschool-aged children

Speech screeners are most suitable for children aged 4 years and older. By this age, children should be able to make most sounds and use language effectively. In some cases, our speech pathologists may offer screeners to children aged from 2 years.

During the screener, your child will complete a few different activities to demonstrate their skills in the identified concern areas.

On-the-spot feedback

After completing a screener, you will receive immediate feedback about your child's progress. If your child needs additional support, you will be referred for further assessment or a block of speech therapy.

You will also receive a one-page report with specific feedback and recommendations.

***Free speech and language screeners are subject to availability.**

Book a free screener

Call our friendly Intake team on 1300 003 900
or visit our website for more information



learninglinks.org.au