

Speech and Language Development

What should my child be able to do?

Age

1

Your child should be using gestures to communicate (pointing, waving) and have 1 – 2 words (*bye-bye, dog*), although sounds may not be clear.

Age

2

Your child should have at least 50 words and combine 2 words together (*What's that?, More cookie, No juice*). Fifty percent of speech should be understandable.

Age

3

Your child should have a word for almost everything and consistently use 2 – 3 word sentences to ask and talk about things. Seventy-five percent of speech should be understandable.

Age

4

Your child should be able to talk about events that happened at school or a friend's house and use a lot of sentences with 4 or more words. One hundred percent of speech should be understandable.

Kinder-
garten

Your child should be able to answer open ended questions (*What did you have for lunch?*), retell a story or an event, and participate in a conversation. One hundred percent of speech should be understandable, although the sounds for L, R, S, Sh, Th, and blends may not be completely correct until age 7 – 8.



What can you do to help?

Face to Face Time

Talk to your child so that she can see your face. Your face provides valuable visual cues that help her to learn to talk.

Talk about Me, Talk about You

Talk as often as possible to your child about what you are doing and what he is doing (*Mommy is cutting the apple, You put your ball in the box*).

Expand

Expand on what your child says. If your child says *My car*, respond with *You found your blue car, vroom vroom*.

Give Two Choices

Say *Do you want to wear your red shirt or your blue shirt?* and then wait for a response.

Play Games That Require Turns

Start with peek-a-boo, patty cake. As your child grows older play roll the ball, Go Fish and simple board games.

Use First-Then Directions

Say *First put on your coat, then you can go outside*. This provides the foundation for sequencing. As your child ages provide descriptions that lengthen the sequence with words such as first, next, second, third, last.

Concerned about your child's
speech and language development?

Call Child Guidance at 918.594.4720

