

A Child's Speech and Language Development

Children use speech and language to communicate and gain information. The ability to communicate and understand is a gradual process that starts in infancy. In most cases, children learn most of their native language by age six. What an amazing accomplishment!

A speech and language evaluation assesses many skills. During the evaluation, a Speech-Language Pathologist looks and listens to the way your child does many tasks.

We test your child's ability to:

- Understand and use different words
- Use language to communicate
- Use correct grammar
- Produce speech sounds

We also test:

- Physical ability to produce speech sounds
- Vocal quality
- Flow of speech (fluency)

If you suspect that your child has a speech or language delay and would like to schedule an evaluation, please call (614) 722-2200, or a signed physician prescription for services can be faxed directly to the scheduler at (614) 722-4000. All other speech related materials should be faxed to (614) 722-6746.

Speech and Language Pathology has clinics on the main campus of Nationwide Children's Hospital, as well as at other locations in Central Ohio.

Visit www.NationwideChildrens.org/Maps-and-Directions

www.NationwideChildrens.org/Speech-and-Language-Pathology



Speech and Language Developmental Milestones



A Child's Speech and Language Development

Parents often wonder if their child's speech and language skills are normal for their age. Here is a guide to skills a child should have at various ages. If you answer "no" to more than two questions in one area, speech and language evaluation (testing) may be needed. A Speech-Language Pathologist at a Nationwide Children's Hospital or surrounding *Close To Home*SM can do this testing.

check one YES NO	Comprehension	Age	Expression	check one YES NO
	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> listen to speech? turn his head toward noise or sounds? startle to loud noises? quiet or calm to a familiar voice? 	0-3 months	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vocalize (make sounds) to her caregiver? make 2 different sounds? cry to get attention? have a hungry or pain cry? 	
	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognize his caregiver's voice? smile when spoken to? respond to changes in the tone of your voice? show interest in objects that make noise? 	3-6 months	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> coo and babble? make lots of different sounds? try to make different sounds when alone? smile when she sees someone she knows? 	
	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> respond to her name? look at or pat her image in the mirror? search for things that are hidden out of sight? smile and laugh during play? 	6-9 months	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> make 4 or more different sounds? respond with a gesture to "Do you want up?" imitate double sounds such as "mama" or "dada" ? make sounds to get attention? 	
	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> give an object to you when asked? look at a familiar objects or people when you name them? make a gesture when asked to do things like waving "bye-bye" ? <p>Can your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> point to two of his body parts when asked? 	9-12 months	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> say mama or dada like he knows what the word means? imitate different speech sounds? say some words of surprise like uh-oh or wow ? say 1 to 2 words? 	
	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand what you are saying when told "no" (even if he doesn't always do what you tell him)? play games like <i>pat-a-cake</i> or <i>peek-a-boo</i>? recognize his own name? follow simple directions like "Pick up the ball"? 	12 months	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> try to say words she hears often? say several words, even if they are not clear? try to make sounds like the things around him such as animal sounds or car sounds? try to put two or more sounds together such as: <i>ba, da, wa</i> ? 	
	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognize a lot of everyday objects and people? pick up a familiar object when asked? hum or "sing along" with familiar tunes? point to several body parts and pictures when you name them? 	18 months	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use 10 to 20 words? combine 2 words such as "all gone," "daddy bye-bye," "where ball" ? use many different consonant sounds at the beginning of words? use words to tell what she wants such as more, up, juice ? point or gesture to call attention to an object or to show what she wants? 	
	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand simple questions? listen to a story with pictures? stay with one activity for 5 to 7 minutes? follow a 2-step direction such as "Get the ball and put it on the table" ? 	2 years	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "talk" to himself or his toys when playing? use 2 and 3 word sentences? use words to ask for things, protest or ask a question? name pictures? 	
	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> respond when you call from another room? listen to television at the same volume as other family members? answer simple <i>who, what, where</i> and <i>yes or no</i> questions? name objects and tell their functions? 	3 years	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> talk about what she did at school or at a friend's house? say most sounds correctly? use 4 word sentences? use action verbs with <i>-ing</i> endings such as <i>eating, sleeping</i> ? 	
	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand most of what is said at home and at school? pay attention to a story and answer simple questions about it? point to several colors when asked? <p>Can your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> name these shapes: triangle, circle, and square? 	4 years	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> say all sounds correctly, except maybe one or two? use sentences that give details such as: "I have two red balls" ? use 4 and 5 word sentences? <p>Can your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tell a story and stay on the topic? 	
	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand the meaning of words like <i>under, behind, between</i> (spatial concepts)? know his address? understand the meaning of same and different ? stay with an activity for 12 to 14 minutes? 	5 years	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use 5 and 6 word sentences? say most speech sounds correctly? use present, past, and future tense verbs? use complex sentences such as: "I can go in the house after I take off my muddy shoes" ? 	
	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand the meaning of most sentences ? understand most opposites such as <i>empty or full, hot or cold, rough or smooth</i> ? understand most basic ideas such as: <i>through, above, below</i> ? understand the meaning of <i>today, yesterday and tomorrow</i> ? 	6 years	<p>Does your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> make speech sounds clearly and correctly? use correct grammar in his speech? ask lots of <i>why, what</i> and <i>how</i> questions? <p>Can your child</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tell you a story that has 4 or 5 parts, and tell what happens next? 	