

# LANGUAGE MILESTONES

It is important to monitor your child’s language development milestones right from birth. The following provides a general guideline for behaviours your child should be demonstrating by a specific age for healthy language development.

| <b>4 years old</b>   | Understanding Language   |   | Using Language   |                          |
|--|--|---|--|--------------------------|
|  | Understands most of what is said at home and at school                   | <input type="checkbox"/>                | Has a vocabulary of approximately 4000 to 6000 words they use to communicate               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Understands basic ‘when’ and ‘how’ questions                             | <input type="checkbox"/>                | Can initiate and maintain a short conversation with peers and adults                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Creates imaginary roles with props during pretend play                   | <input type="checkbox"/>                | Asks various types of questions and requests detailed explanations of events               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Follows directions when part of a group                                  | <input type="checkbox"/>                | Uses rhyming words (e.g., hat – cat)   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Understands sequence terms (e.g., first, next, then, last)               | <input type="checkbox"/>                | In general, speaks easily without repeating sounds or words                                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Understands temporal terms (e.g., yesterday, tomorrow, before, after)    | <input type="checkbox"/>                | Says all speech sounds correctly but may make mistakes on <i>l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Understanding of basic size vocabulary (e.g., fat/thin tall/short, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/>                | Can tell a short story including describing events from the past                           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|  | Engages in pretend and cooperative play with peers                       | <input type="checkbox"/>                | Uses conjunctions such as and, because, so and if  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Able to play simple, rule-based games (e.g., board games, tag, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/>   | Speech is 100% understood by all people | <input type="checkbox"/>   |                          |

This chart is meant for informative purposes only and is not a substitute for a speech and language assessment. If you have questions or concerns regarding your child’s speech and language development it is recommended you discuss this with your doctor or contact a local speech-language pathologist where you are living.