

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.

5 years old	Understanding Language		Using Language	
	Vocabulary knowledge continues to grow at a rapid rate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Has a vocabulary of approximately 5000 to 8000 words they use to communicate	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Able to understand speech in noisy, group scenarios	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speaks in adult-like, full sentences	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Can tap out syllables in words they hear	<input type="checkbox"/>	Narratives become more complex with a plot and characters, however still require the listener to be familiar with the topic	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Can identify sounds at the beginning of words	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can adjust the way they speak based on who the listener is (e.g., adult or child) and location (e.g., school vs home)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Development of print awareness (e.g., understanding that letters make up words, which have meaning)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Grammar during conversation is mainly correct with some complex grammatical errors still occurring	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Creates themes in pretend play with many sequences of events that require props and roles	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can label letters and numbers	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Begins to understand when to ask for clarification if a message is not understood	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knows some letter sounds	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Asks for meaning of new or unfamiliar words	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can make predictions about a book based on pictures or portions of a story	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Greater understanding for emotion and feeling words	<input type="checkbox"/>	Speech sounds clear and fluent but errors may still occur on sounds like r, th, z, sh, ch	<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.