

Don't miss the boat!



Concerned about
your preschooler's
language skills?

**Call now, before
your child enters
Kindergarten
Year 1**



905-688-3550 ext. 110

For more information about your child's communication and/or
emergent literacy skills OR to make an online referral go to

www.speechservicesniagara.ca

A program operated by Niagara Children's Centre

SSN Communication Milestones

BY AGE 1 YOUR CHILD SHOULD:

- use jargon (babbling that sounds like real speech)
- begin to imitate some new words
- **may have first words** (2-5 words)
- enjoy interacting with others, have a desire to communicate
- **understand simple instructions/words** (e.g., Stand up, don't touch, sit down)
- give a toy on request
- understand own name

BY AGE 2 YOUR CHILD SHOULD:

- use **50-150 words**
- combine 2 words (e.g., "more juice", "hi daddy")
- **understand at least 300 words**
- respond appropriately to yes/no questions
- hold books the right way up and turn the pages

BY AGE 3 YOUR CHILD SHOULD:

- use about **1000 words**
- talk in **short sentences (3-5 words)**, that are not always grammatically correct (e.g., "I eated it")
- use plurals (s); "ing" endings; prepositions (e.g., on, in, under); negative (e.g., won't)
- put end sounds on the end of words (e.g., dad)
- **be understood 90% of the time**
- **follow two-step commands** (e.g., "take off your shoes and put them in the closet")
- answer "where?" and "what's he doing?"

BY AGE 4 YOUR CHILD SHOULD:

- have a vocabulary of at least **2000 words**
- begin to use longer sentences (4 or more words) that include **"adult-like" grammar** (e.g., "he isn't there")
- be able to re-tell recent events with logical sequence
- be able to answer more complex questions (e.g., "what do you think will happen next?")
- pronounce l, sh, s-blends accurately in words
- **follow three-step commands** (e.g., "get your boots, put them on, and go outside")
- follow instructions without the object being present
- be able to listen to stories for at least 15 minutes and remember details
- enjoy simple, silly jokes

BY AGE 1½ YOUR CHILD SHOULD:

- use **10-20 words** consistently
- words may not always be clearly pronounced
- words may be accompanied by gestures
- make at least 4 different consonant sounds (e.g., p, b, m, n, d, t, w, h)
- enjoy being read to and looking at simple books with an adult
- **understand simple directions** (e.g., "where's your..." or "show me the...")
- learn new words weekly

BY AGE 2½ YOUR CHILD SHOULD:

- use about **250-350 words**
- be understood by at least some familiar adults, other people may have a hard time understanding them at times
- **understand about 500 words**
- **follow simple two-step commands** (e.g., "get your coat and wait at the door")
- be able to answer simple "who?" and "what's that?" questions
- understand position words such as in, on, under, up & down

BY AGE 3½ YOUR CHILD SHOULD:

- be improving grammar to include: personal pronouns (e.g., I, you, my), plurals, early negatives (e.g., don't, can't, won't)
- pronounce f, k, g, s accurately in words
- by **3 years, 9 months** grammar continues to improve to include: is/are; he, she they; and possession (e.g., boy's)

BY AGE 5 YOUR CHILD SHOULD:

- **use sentences that sound almost like an adult**
- be able to participate in a conversation
- be able to use all sounds with the exception of "th" and "r"
- **understand long verbal directions** (e.g., "when grandpa arrives, tell him I'm outside and help him with his suitcase")
- point to basic colours
- enjoy jokes and riddles
- love to listen to stories, may act them out
- understand many descriptive words (e.g., soft, hard, tallest, shortest, long, short, top, bottom)

BY AGE 6 YOUR CHILD SHOULD:

- use grammatically correct sentences
- use a full range of sounds accurately

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