

Speech and Language Developmental Milestones for 4 year olds

Now that I am in K4 ... I should be able to;

Understanding of Language

- Follow 2-step unrelated instructions ("Get your bag and put your shoes on")
- Follow instructions with up to 6 key words ("Put the black box and the keys under your chair")
- Understand words such as 'yesterday' and 'tomorrow'
- Understand 'why' and 'when'
- Know colours, some numbers and shapes

Language Use

- 4 year olds should be verbal with a vocabulary of 1000-1500 words
- Use adult-like grammar
- Ask 'what', 'where' and 'why' questions
- Sing songs and retell stories read aloud
- Tell stories with a clear beginning, middle and end
- Use future and past tense
- Use 'and', 'then', 'because' and 'but' in sentences

Speech

- Speech should be understood by teacher and peers
- Some immaturities may persist ("wabbit" for 'rabbit')
- Use P, B, M, W, Y, H, T, D, N, K, G, and F sounds correctly in words

Play and Social Skills

- Make friends
- Use imaginary play
- Play simple games with rules
- Join in and start conversations
- Use a large vocabulary to express ideas and make requests
- Enjoy social communication with a variety of different people



If you have any concerns regarding your student's speech and language development, consult with the speech-language pathologist assigned to your school

Tips for promoting speech and language development

- Read stories and ask questions about the book
- Ask your students to retell stories using their own words
- Make up stories using the pictures in books
- Talk about past, present, and future events
- Talk about what you are doing and ask student to retell what to did together

Causes for Concern

- Small vocabulary
- Only uses short sentences with many grammar errors
- Can't retell a simple story or event even when given support
- Difficulty following instructions
- Difficulty understanding simple 'who', 'what' and 'where' questions
- Speech is difficult to understand