

Speech and Language Developmental Milestones for 5 year olds

Now that I am in K5 ... I should be able to;

Understanding of Language

- Follow 3-step instructions ("Get your book, put it in your bag and then put your bag by the door")
- Follow instructions with 'first', 'then', 'last' and 'after'
- Answer 'when', 'why' and 'what' questions
- Understand opposites (hot and cold) and location words (next to, between, in front)

Language Use

- 5 year olds should be very verbal with a vocabulary of 2000 words
- Use adult-like grammar
- Ask 'what', 'where' and 'why' questions
- Sing songs and retell stories read aloud
- Tell stories without any assistance
- Retell stories accurately
- Explain why something happened
- Participate in longer detailed conversations

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, F, ING, and J sounds correctly in words

Play and Social Skills

- Make friends and engage easily with peers
- Enjoy social communication with a variety of different people
- Play fairly in games with rules
- Engage in complex imaginary play
- Join in and start conversations
- Use an extensive vocabulary to share ideas and make requests



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 to go with pictures in textless books
- Talk about past, present, and future events
- Give your students the meaning of words they do not know

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 with 2 or more steps
- Difficulty answering 'how', 'when' and 'why' questions
- Speech is difficult to understand
- Poor conversation and social skills