

Speech and Language Developmental Milestones for 8 year olds

Now that I am in Grade 3 ... I should be able to;

Understanding of Language

- Sit still and listen to a variety of classroom activities
- Maintain focus and work independently on classroom activities and tasks
- Participate actively in classroom discussions
- Show an understanding of the concept of time, numbers, and sequence
- Recognize when I don't know a word and ask what it means
- Remember lengthy information or instructions

Language Use

- 8 year olds should demonstrate adult-like verbal communication and use language that contains very few grammatical errors
- Use sentences which are, on average 8+ words long and use words such as 'so', 'if', and 'but' to join my phrases
- Independently provide information and explain complex ideas to others so that they know what I mean
- Use a range of vocabulary specific topics and use very little non-specific language (that one, thing, there, this)

Speech

- Speak without any speech sound errors
- Produce all speech sounds accurately including L, R, and TH

Play and Social Skills

- Make friends and engage in social situations with ease
- Develop and explain complex games and activities with adults and peers
- Use language skills to resolve conflict and explain my emotions
- Infer information from what people say, how they look or what they are doing
- Enjoy and maintain conversations with adults and peers by choosing appropriate topics for my speaking partners, taking turns with others



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

- Ask your students to tell you about events that happened over the weekend or while away on vacation. Ask open ended questions such as "Tell me about your weekend." rather than asking "Did you have a good weekend?"
- Play games such as 'making up stories' or 'can you guess what I'm thinking of?'

Causes for Concern

- Student is not using complex sentences with complex vocabulary.
- Speech sound errors persist and they experience difficulty pronouncing longer words
- Grammatical errors occur frequently ("I gotted this from Grandma"; "She gaved it to me.")
- After reading a story, the student finds it hard to remember what they have read
- Difficulty remembering instructions
- Student finds it difficult to have a conversation, express themselves or to keep up with the pace of conversations.