

## Speech & Language Development Over 5 years & School-Age

**Have this checklist handy when you call to discuss your child's speech & language needs.**

*Remember: This is not a full and complete list and does not replace assessment by a speech pathologist.  
It should be used as a guide only.*

### What to Expect

- Enjoys communication with a variety of people & makes friends easily
- Engages in complex imaginary games with simple rules
- Joins in and initiates conversations and interactions appropriately
- Follows 3 step instructions  
eg: "pack up your pencils, put your books in your trays then line up at the door"
- Follows instructions that include the words *first, last, before, after*
- Can answer "wh" questions
- Understands humour and age appropriate jokes
- Has an extensive vocabulary and expresses ideas clearly
- Speaks clearly with only a few minor speech immaturities remaining
- Tells stories or gives a morning talk without any help
- Has long and detailed conversations with a variety of people on a variety of topics
- Can explain why something happened and consider some solutions to problems



### When to Refer

Most classroom activities require students to have age appropriate speech and language skills to meet the criterion for each stage of the NSW K-6 curriculum. Students with difficulties in speech and language are at a distinct disadvantage.

Educational difficulties related to speech and language development often appear in the following areas:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> self-image                     | <input type="checkbox"/> classroom organisation         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> social skills                  | <input type="checkbox"/> oral and written story-telling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> attending and concentrating    | <input type="checkbox"/> completing math story problems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> following directions           | <input type="checkbox"/> remembering spelling rules     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> sequencing thoughts and events | <input type="checkbox"/> reading unfamiliar words       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> problem-solving                | <input type="checkbox"/> understanding written texts    |

***Seeing a Speech Pathologist as early as possible can help your child to achieve their best and put them on the path to successful communication!***