

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!