

Phone: (02)88504253
joanned@internode.on.net

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

- Identifies body parts
- Knows basic clothing items
- Understands doing words such as eat, drink, sleep in sentences
- Has a 450 word vocabulary, which is added to daily; can name common pictures and things
- Carries on 'conversation' with self and dolls
- Combines nouns and verbs in 2-3 word utterances "mummy go car"
- Asks "why" questions, "what's that?" and "where's my...?"
- Answers "where" questions
- Uses 2-word negative phrases such as "no want".
- Forms some plurals by adding "s" eg. books
- Understands simple time concepts: "last night", "tomorrow"
- Refers to self as "me" rather than by name
- Likes to hear same story repeated
- Talks to other children as well as adults
- Uses short sentences like "me want more" or "me want cookie"
- Matches 3-4 colours, knows big and little
- Speech is becoming more accurate but may still leave off ending sounds; at least 50% of what is said should be understood.



When to Refer

- Uses only a few words
- Vocabulary increases only occasionally
- Poor eye contact
- Easily frustrated
- Unable to use words to express feelings so resorts to hitting or crying
- Relatives and strangers are unable to understand most of what is said
- Social interactions are significantly limited by speech and language skills
- Does not enjoy listening to stories read by adults

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!

Checklist developed from the following sources:

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association factsheets: Four to Five Years, retrieved on 26/10/2016 from www.asha.org
- Speech-Language and Audiology Canada, *Speech, Language and Hearing Milestones*, retrieved on 26/10/16 from www.sac-oac.ca
- Speech Pathology Australia, *The Sound of Speech: preschool & school aged children* retrieved on 26/10/16 from www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au
- Raising Children Network, *Language Development:4-5 years* retrieved on 26/10/17 from <http://raisingchildren.net.au>

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