

Speech & Language Development Between 4 & 5 years

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

- Pronounces most speech sounds correctly
- Uses sentences that include a lot of detail
- Uses past tense correctly
- Identifies colours and shapes
- Understands words for time like: *In the morning, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.*
- Understands words for order like: *first, next, and last*
- Understands words for location like: *under, behind, next to, between, above, below, top*
- Follows longer directions like: *"Put your pyjamas on, brush your teeth, then get a book."*
- Follows classroom directions like: *"Draw a circle around a picture of something you eat."*
- Listens to and retells stories
- Asks many questions
- Participates in and understands conversations even in the presence of background noise



When to Refer

- If your child has difficulty following instructions and needs repetitions
- If your child has difficulty speaking in sentences
- If there are a number of grammar errors
- If there are still a number of speech sounds produced incorrectly
- If speech cannot always be easily understood by people outside the family
- If your child has difficulty retelling simple, familiar stories while looking at the pictures

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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