



Do you have questions about your child's Speech, Language or Hearing?

In general, the following could indicate difficulties with speech or language development:

- A child's speech is difficult to understand – after age 3
- A child leaves out many beginning sounds – after age 3 ('oy augh' for 'boy laugh')
- A child uses mostly vowel sounds when speaking – after age 3 ('-y -ame i- -o-' for 'My name is Bob')
- There are many substitutions of earlier developing sounds for later developing sounds
 - (tat for cat, sue for shoe, wight for light)
- Limited use of word endings – after age 5
 - (**ed** [kicked], **ing** [kicking], plural/possessive '**s**' [cats, cat's])
- Words are left out of a sentence or ungrammatical – after age 5
 - ('Her running' for 'She is running', 'I go school' for 'I go to school')

Approximately 5 percent of all children go through a period of stuttering that lasts six months or more. Three-quarters of those will recover by late childhood, leaving about 1% with a long-term problem. If the stuttering persists or is particularly severe, contact your child's teacher for more information.

What should my child be able to do?

	Listening	Speaking
Before Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay attention to a short story and answer simple questions about the story • Hear and understand most of what is said at home and in school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use sentences that include details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ("The biggest peach is mine") • Tell stories that stick to a topic • Communicate easily with other children and adults • Say most sounds correctly • Say rhyming words • Name some letters and numbers • Use the same grammar as the rest of the family
After Kindergarten	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow 1-2 simple directions in a sequence • Listen to and understand age-appropriate stories read aloud • Follow a simple conversation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be understood by most people • Answer simple "yes/no" questions • Answer open-ended questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ("What did you have for lunch today?") • Retell a story or talk about an event • Participate appropriately in conversations • Show interest in and start conversations

Articulation Guidelines for Sound Development (English)

90% of children acquire these sounds by the age shown in the chart.

As with many areas of development, it is typical for children to grow at their own rate.

These time intervals are provided only as a general guideline for age-appropriate development.

Age	3-4 years	4-5 years	6-7 years	7-7.5 years	8-8.5 years
Sounds	p m h w b	k g d f v y t	ing	r L z s ch sh j	th – voiced th – unvoiced