



talking together

speech pathology

developmental speech and language milestones

a general guide to determine if speech pathology could assist

Individual children do develop their talking and listening skills at different rates, however there is a general pattern we all follow when developing language:

by age of one, your child should be able to:

- Respond to familiar sounds such as the telephone ringing or the car in the driveway
- Understand simple commands such as “no”
- Recognise their own name
- Understand the names of familiar objects and people
- Say “mumma”, “dad” and a few other words
- Enjoy songs, music and books
- Try to make familiar sounds such as a car and animal noises

by age of two, your child should be able to:

- Say the names of simple body parts such as nose or tummy
- Listen to stories and say the names of some pictures
- Understand simple sentences such as “where are your shoes?”
- Use more than 50 words such as “no”, “gone”, “mine”, teddy”
- Talk to themselves or their toys during play
- Sing simple songs such as “twinkle, twinkle, little star”
- Use some simple pronouns instead of names, such as “he”, “it”
- Try simple sentences such as “milk all gone” or “bye daddy”

by age of three, your child should be able to:

- Understand how objects are used—a crayon is something to draw with
- Recognise their own needs, such as hunger
- Follow directions
- Use three to four word sentences
- Begin to use grammar
- Enjoy telling stories and asking questions
- Have favourite books and television programs
- Be understood by familiar adults

by age of four your child should be able to:

- Understand shape and colour names
- Understand some “time” words, such as lunchtime, today, winter
- Ask who, what, and why questions
- Use lots of words, about 900 and formulate 4 to 5 word sentences
- Use correct grammar with occasional mistakes such as “I falled down”
- Use language when playing with other children
- Speak clearly enough to be understood by most people

by age of five your child should be able to:

- Understand opposites, such as high and low, wet and dry, big and little
- Use sentences of about 6 plus words with correct grammar
- Talk about events which are happening, have happened or might happen
- Explain why something happens, such as “mum’s car stopped because the petrol ran out”
- Explain the function of objects, for example, “this clip keeps my hair back”
- Follow 3 stage directions, such as “stand up, get your shoes on and wait by the door”
- Say how they feel and tell you their ideas
- Become interested in writing, numbers and reading things
- Speak clearly enough to be understood by anyone

Kelly Murphy
Speech Pathologist
64 Sydney Pde. Geelong
0410 427 129