

If a child does not appear to be reaching the milestones below, please contact River Dart Speech Therapy for an informal chat on 07981267829 or email us at: [contact@riverdartspeechtherapy.co.uk](mailto:contact@riverdartspeechtherapy.co.uk).

We may recommend an assessment in the area of speech and/or language. Remember, early intervention is the key to successful therapy.

Communication Milestones			
Age	Understanding	Talking	Speech Sounds
4 years	<p>Knows prepositions (in, on under, between, above, below).</p> <p>Familiar with primary colours (show me the red one).</p> <p>Rote counts 1-10.</p> <p>Can count up to 4 objects.</p> <p>Understands 'who' and 'where's the...?' questions</p>	<p>Uses 'what does...?' questions.</p> <p>Can define a few words by use (the apple is for eating).</p> <p>Uses 'could/would' in sentences.</p> <p>Uses 'he, she, they' pronouns.</p> <p>Uses 4-7 words in sentences.</p> <p>Stories have basic sequence of events.</p> <p>Able to talk about some feelings and emotions.</p>	<p>Uses the following sounds correctly in conversational speech: p, b, m, h, t, d, k, g, y, f, n, w</p>
5 years	<p>Understands over 2500 words.</p> <p>Can group objects by colour, use, and shape.</p> <p>Knows concepts like loud, soft, heavy, light, long, short.</p>	<p>Uses 2000 words.</p> <p>Starting to answer 'when' questions, asks 'what does [word] mean?'.</p> <p>Can tell a longer familiar story accurately.</p> <p>Able to name first, middle, last objects.</p> <p>Knows the days of the week in the sequence.</p> <p>Uses 'his, her' possessive nouns.</p> <p>Uses 'I/he will' to talk about the future.</p> <p>Sentences have 5-8 words.</p>	<p>The following sounds are emerging in speech: r, l, s, z, sh, ch, v, j, th</p>
6 years	<p>Understands 13000 words.</p> <p>Understands 'what happens if...?' questions.</p> <p>Understands opposites, yesterday, tomorrow, morning, afternoon, right and left.</p>	<p>Can repeat back 4 numbers accurately and count to 30 by rote.</p> <p>Able to name basic colours.</p> <p>Can describe similarities/differences of objects.</p> <p>Names first, second, third positions.</p> <p>Describes location or movement 'through, away, from, toward, over.'</p> <p>Uses all pronouns, nearly normal grammar.</p> <p>Stories have a central character and sequence, ending may be unclear.</p>	<p>Uses the following sounds correctly in conversational speech: l, s, z, sh, ch, v</p>
7 years	<p>Understands around 25000 words.</p> <p>Can write own name and phone number.</p> <p>Understands the seasons.</p> <p>Can put numerals 1-10 in correct order, form letters left to right with some errors, write one syllable sight words.</p> <p>Has basic understanding of add/subtract.</p> <p>Knows preceding/ following day of the week.</p>	<p>Can notice mistakes in the speech of others and can use some slang.</p> <p>Recites the alphabet and can name capital and lower case letters.</p> <p>Sight reads 10 words.</p> <p>The use of 'have and had' is emerging in sentences.</p> <p>Uses most grammatical markers in language, has good use of irregular verbs, using reflexive pronouns 'myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself etc.</p> <p>Uses the passive voice, 'the dog was washed by his owner'.</p> <p>Stories have well developed plot, characters and sequence of events.</p>	<p>Uses the following sounds correctly in conversational speech: r, v, j, th</p>