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Language, Speech and Educational Services

PRESCHOOL SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Age	Speech (Articulation) and Fluency	Hearing and Understanding (Receptive Language)	Verbal Language (Expressive Language)
By Age 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child's speech can be understood at least 50% of the time Uses the consonants 'p', 'b', 'm', 'n', 'h', and 'w' Consistently uses beginning consonants Speech contains normal tension-free non-fluencies like word and syllable repetitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knows 5 body parts Understands 300+ words Understands concepts such as "up and down", "in and out", "big and little" Understands 2-step directions (e.g., "Get your book, and take it to your room.") Enjoys listening to stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a vocabulary of at least 50 words Begins using 2 and 3-word phrases Begins to ask "What is this?", "Who is that?", and "Where is my ____?" Carries on conversation with self and dolls Begins to use pronouns like "me" and "it" Begins forming plurals by adding "s"
By age 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child's speech can be understood at least 75% of the time In addition to the 2-year-old consonants, uses the consonants 's', 'z', 'k', 'g', 't', 'd' and 'f' Uses vowels correctly Consistently uses beginning and ending consonants Speech contains occasional tension-free whole word repetitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands questions like "Where are your shoes?" Understands most things said to him/her Understands 900+ words Understands concepts such as "hot and cold", "heavy and light", "empty and full" Understands spatial concepts like "under" and "beside" Understands object function (e.g., dogs bark and scissors cut) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a vocabulary of 500-1000 words Uses 4-5 word phrases Gives first and last name Uses pronouns "he", "she", "thing", "I" and "you" Uses present tense "ing" and past tense verbs Uses possessive "s" and the verb "is" including its contracted form (e.g., "It's raining") Recites simple nursery rhymes Can describe simple experiences and relay ideas to others
By age 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child's speech can be understood at least 90% of the time In addition to the 2 and 3-year-old consonants, uses the consonants 'l', 'ch', 'sh', and 'j' at the beginning and end of words Speaks fluently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands new spatial concepts like "in front" and "in back" Follows 3 part commands ("Please go find your shoes, put them on and get in the car.") Understands "who", "what", "where" and "why" questions Understands concepts such as "night and day", "long and short" Understands at least 2000 words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has a vocabulary of at least 1,500 words Uses 5-8 word sentences Asks grammatically correct "who", "what", "where" and "why" questions Consistently uses plurals, possessives, the verbs "is", "are" and "am", and present and past tense verbs Participates in conversations with children and adults Can relay experiences or describe procedures of 3-4 steps in correct sequence (e.g., how to get dressed)
By age 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child's speech can be understood at least 95% of the time Produces most sounds correctly, although 'r' and 'th' continue to develop May still exhibit a frontal lisp while producing 's' and 'z' Speaks fluently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understands complex questions (e.g., "What do you do when you are tired?") Pays attention to a story and answers questions about it Understands new spatial concepts like "between" and "over" Understands concepts like "half and whole", "first and last", "before and after" Follows complex directions (e.g., "Wash your hands and come to the table after you put on your shoes.") 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicates easily with other children and adults Uses adverbs, conjunctions, comparatives (e.g., bigger), and superlatives (e.g., biggest) Produces grammatically correct sentences and questions, although irregular plurals and irregular past tense verbs continue to emerge (e.g., "children" and "drank") Talks about past experiences Accurately relays lengthy stories or describes procedures of 5-6 steps Rhymes words and creates nonsense words