

How is Your Child's Speech and Language Development?



Image credit: Adobe Stock

What is normal development?

Your 18 month old should:

- Use a vocabulary of 10 to 50 spoken words
- Understand simple directions or questions like "Where is your nose?"
- Use connected sounds (jargon) that sounds like sentences in a foreign language

Your 24 month old should:

- Use 50 to 250 words and combine 2 words like "No nap"
- Follow two step directions like "Go get your coat and your boots"
- Point to pictures in a book when asked a question like "Where is the cat?"

Your 3 year old should:

- Use phrases with 2 to 3 words, such as "Want juice" or "Mommy go now"
- Use plurals to indicate that there is more than one
- Follow longer two- to three-step directions

Your 4 year old should:

- Say more words correctly but may have difficulty with r, th, ch, sh, j and v sounds
- Use sentences with 4 or more words
- Ask what, where, who and why questions

How do I know if I should be concerned?

Use the checklist provided above.

If you see that your child does not have all the skills listed for his/her age, contact your child's doctor, or a local

speech/language screening program.

For Children in Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

Refer your child for a screening right away. You do not need a doctor's referral; for more information about this program or to refer your child for services, call 613-933-1375 or 1 800 267-7120 and ask for the Health Line

Words in Bloom is a preschool speech and language program for children up to the age of five. Speech and language pathologists will work with your child to improve his communication skills. Early detection of a speech or language development problem is often the key to successful treatment. The sooner a child's delays are corrected, the sooner he can meet his age appropriate milestones.

About this Document

Written by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (www.eohu.ca).

Adapted from: A timetable for Growing Up, When Does It Happen? Life Skills Institute, Bloorview Kids Rehab, Toronto, Ontario.

Disclaimer

Information in this fact sheet may or may not apply to your child. Your health care provider is the best source of information about your child's health.

Creative Commons License

Under a Creative Commons License. You are free to share, copy and distribute this work as in its entirety, with no alterations. This work may not be used for commercial purposes. View full license at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/ca/>