

# How is Your Child's Speech and Language Development?



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## 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

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## 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.

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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

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Written by the Eastern Ontario Health Unit ([www.eohu.ca](http://www.eohu.ca)).

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

## Disclaimer

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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.

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