

Let's Get Ready to Learn about



Speech and Language

WHAT TO EXPECT:

SPEECH SOUNDS

Your 3 year old ...

- Uses sounds like m, p, b, w, t, d, n, h, k, g, f, s, vowels, 'y' as in yes, and 'ing' as in sing
- Is understood by parents between 75 to 100% of the time

Your 3 1/2 year old ...

- Uses sounds at the beginning of words (bus instead of us) and at the end of words (boot instead of boo)
- Uses vowel sounds correctly almost all of the time

Your 4 year old ...

- Uses sounds like m, p, b, w, t, d, n, h, k, g, f, y, l, s, z, vowels, and 'ing'
- Is understood by parents 100% of the time

Your 5 year old ...

- Says most sounds correctly except for maybe r, v, ch, and th
- Uses 'l' blends and 's' blends, such as blue and stop
- May say s, z, sh, ch, or j with the tongue sticking out (a lisp)
- Is easily understood by siblings, friends, parents, and strangers



WARNING SIGNS:

18 MONTHS TO 3 YEARS

- Does your child use more gestures than words?
- Are you concerned about your child's ability to talk and/or understand?
- Does your child show frustration when trying to talk?
- Do you have difficulty understanding your child's speech?
- Does your child put 2 words together?

3 TO 5 YEARS

- Is your child's speech difficult to understand?
- Are your child's speech skills not at the level listed in the pamphlet?

5 YEARS AND BEYOND

- Does your child not use complete sentences?
- Does your child stutter?
- Does your child not seem to be able to follow directions?

TALKING AND LISTENING: WHAT TO EXPECT

Your 3 year old...


- Says 3 to 4 words together, like “Mommy is at work.”
- Uses more of the little words like ‘is,’ ‘a,’ ‘the’
- Follows 3-part directions like ‘Go to your room, get your socks, and bring them to me.’
- Understands and ask questions like “Where is your coat?,” “Who’s that?” and “What is soap for?”

Your 4 year old...

- Uses sentences that are longer and more complete, such as “I want to go out and play on the swing.”
- Uses more grammar, like pronouns (I, you, me, she he, we), past tense (walked), and some questions words (what, who, where, why). There are still some errors.
- Understands most concept words like colours, shapes, texture (smooth, hard), locations (beside, under, etc.), time (before, after, etc)

Your 5 year old...

- Uses sentences that are longer and more complete, such as “I want to go out and play on the swing.”
- Uses more grammar, like pronouns (I, you, me, she he, we), past tense (walked), and some questions words (what, who, where, why). There are still some errors.
- Understands most concept words like colours, shapes, locations (beside, under, etc.), texture (smooth, hard, etc.), time (before, after, etc.)
- Uses sentences that can be more than 5 or 6 words long.
- Asks more difficult questions, like why and how.
- Understands most questions and adult conversation
- Uses present, future, and past tenses, like walks, walked, and will walk
- Retells a story by naming the characters and by talking about what happened



“Speech is the verbal means of communicating.
Language is made up of socially shared rules for communication.”

Recommended Websites:

alberta.ca/family-resource-networks.aspx

theroadmap.ualberta.ca

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT GYPSD'S EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS,

PLEASE CONTACT: Learning Services 780-723-4471