



Enhancing Communication, LLC
Speech Therapy Services Provided in Your Home

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A Brief Review of a Child's Speech and Language Milestones

Speech Development

Based upon a recent review of research, the average age for when sounds are mastered are presented below:

Ages 2-3 Years

p, b, m, d, n, h, t, k, g, w, ng, f, y

Age 4 Years

All sounds from ages 2-3 plus:

l, j, ch, s, v, sh, z

Age 5 Years

All sounds from ages 2-4 plus:

r, zh, th (voiced, i.e. "them")

Age 6 Years

All sounds from ages 2-5 plus:

th (voiceless, i.e. "think")

Research Review:

McLeod, S. & Crowe, K. (2018). Children's consonant acquisition in 27 languages: A cross-linguistic review. *American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology*. doi:10.1044/2018_AJSLP-17-0100. Available from: <https://ajslp.pubs.asha.org/article.aspx?articleid=2701897>

Language Development

Below are some basic skills that should be observed from ages 2-5 years.

Ages 2-3 Years

- Speak using 2-3 words
- Follow 1 and 2 step direction
- Understand new words quickly
- Understand opposites (i.e. up/down)

Age 3-4 Years

- Speak using 4 or more words
- Understand and use some words for: colors, shapes, family members, pronouns (i.e. I, me, you)
- Tells stories and nursery rhymes
- Know their first and last name

Age 4-5 Years

- Speak using 4+ words with more adult-like speech
- Understand more difficult/complex concepts (i.e. words for order, time)
- Follow multi-step directions
- Name letters and numbers
- Understand most of what they hear
- Use more complex sentences

When do I seek help from a Speech-Language Pathologist?

It can be difficult to know when to seek out the expertise of a Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP). Parents seem to be expected to know what is “normal” for speech and language development, but there can be a wide range as to what is “normal development.”

Some *red flags* that may suggest delays in speech or language development include:

- Not combining 2 words around 2 years of age
- Using very few or no words
- Difficulty understanding a child by age 2-3
 - A child should be understood 75-80% of the time at these ages
- Difficulty understanding what others are saying
 - This includes gestures, words, and body language
- Difficulty naming or identifying pictures, objects, and people
- Not using simple sentences at ages 3-4 years to communicate with others

If your child is displaying signs of delayed speech and/or language skills, please reach out to Enhancing Communication to set up your FREE speech and language screening. This is a great way to determine if there are areas of concern and to get recommendations for the next steps to take.

Plus, I come to you! Speech therapy services, including screenings, are provided in your own home. If you would rather meet at another location, that can also be arranged.

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