

Speech and Language Milestones

4 to 5 Years



From 4-5 years, your child:

- can follow complex directions (example - “please pick up your toys and wash your hands before dinner”)
- understands and answers many questions
- knows the difference between “heavy” and “light”, “loud” and “soft”
- can show you a few colours when you name them
- is very easy to understand when he/she speaks
- can tell you what words mean
- uses complete sentences that have 4 to 8 words
- can have long conversations with you
- listens to stories, conversations and movies
- remembers a long story that has been read and can tell you about it - or makes up his/her own stories
- likes to play with a group of friends

How you can help your child's speech and language grow:

- talk about your activities when you are together
- show your child different ways to use words (examples - use words that mean the same thing, words that are opposites, “pretend” words, rhyming words)
- don't expect perfect speech and try not to ask your child to show how well he/she can say things in front of others
- ask your child to help you plan activities such as making a special meal
- talk with your child as you would anybody else
- read longer stories with your child
- let your child make up stories for you
- let your child play with other children

Adapted with permission from material developed by First Words Preschool Speech and Language Program of Ottawa-Carleton led by Pinecrest-Queensway Health and Community Services.

**DON'T WAIT
EARLY HELP MAKES
A DIFFERENCE!**

Call 519-272-8216 or 1-866-333-7716
and ask for **smallTALK**

Visit our web site at www.smalltalkinfo.ca

Services provided by smallTALK are funded
by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
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**Parents, trust your instincts
and call us if you**

- have questions or concerns about the way your child's speech and language skills are developing
- want to refer your child for a speech and language assessment
- want more information on other topics related to speech and language development

