

LANGUAGE DISORDERS IN CHILDREN

Language disorders can be either receptive or expressive. Receptive disorders refer to difficulties understanding or processing language. Expressive disorders include difficulty putting words together, limited vocabulary, or inability to use language in a socially appropriate way.

A check list to see if your child has the necessary receptive and/or expressive skills for his age. If your child is not able to do more than 2, it is necessary for you to see a professional speech and language therapist.

0-6 Months

- Repeats the same sounds
- Frequently coos, gurgles, and makes pleasure sounds
- Uses a different cry to express different needs
- Smiles when spoken to
- Recognises voices
- Localises sounds by turning head
- Listens to speech
- Uses the phonemes [p], [b] and [m] in babbling
- Uses sounds or gestures to indicate wants

7-12 Months

- Understands *no* and *hot*
- Responds to simple requests
- Understands and responds to own name
- Listens to and imitate some sounds
- Recognises words for common items (e.g. cup, shoe, bottle)
- Babbles using long and short groups of sounds
- Uses a song-like intonation pattern when babbling
- Uses a large variety of sounds in babbling
- Imitates some adult speech sounds and intonation patterns
- Uses speech sounds rather than only crying to get attention
- Listens when spoken to
- Uses sounds approximations
- Begins to change babbling to jargon
- Uses speech intentionally for the first time
- Uses nouns almost exclusively
- Has an expressive vocabulary of 1-3 words
- Understands simple commands

13-18 Months

- Uses adult-like intonation patterns

<input type="checkbox"/> Uses echolalia and jargon
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses jargon to fill gaps in fluency
<input type="checkbox"/> Omits some initial consonants and almost all final consonants
<input type="checkbox"/> Produces mostly unintelligible speech
<input type="checkbox"/> Follows simple commands
<input type="checkbox"/> Receptively identifies 1-3 body parts
<input type="checkbox"/> Has an expressive vocabulary of 3-20 or more words (mostly nouns)
<input type="checkbox"/> Combines gestures and vocalization
<input type="checkbox"/> Make requests for more of desired items

19-24 Months

<input type="checkbox"/> Uses words more frequently than jargon
<input type="checkbox"/> Has an expressive vocabulary of 50-100 or more words
<input type="checkbox"/> Has a receptive vocabulary of 300 or more words
<input type="checkbox"/> Starts to combine nouns and verbs
<input type="checkbox"/> Begins to use pronouns
<input type="checkbox"/> Maintains unstable voice control
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses appropriate intonation for questions
<input type="checkbox"/> Is approximately 20-25% intelligible to strangers
<input type="checkbox"/> Answers "what's that?" questions
<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoys listening to stories
<input type="checkbox"/> Knows 5 body parts
<input type="checkbox"/> Accurately names a few familiar objects

2-3 Years

<input type="checkbox"/> Speech is 50-75% intelligible
<input type="checkbox"/> Understands <i>one</i> and <i>all</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Verbalizes toilet needs (before, during, or after act)
<input type="checkbox"/> Requests items by name
<input type="checkbox"/> Points to pictures in a book when named
<input type="checkbox"/> Identifies several body parts
<input type="checkbox"/> Follows simple commands and answers simple questions
<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoys listening to short stories, songs and rhymes
<input type="checkbox"/> Asks 1-2 word questions
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses 3-4 word phrases
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses some prepositions, articles, present progressive verbs, regular plurals, contractions, and irregular past tense forms
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses words that are general in context
<input type="checkbox"/> Continues use of echolalia when difficulties in speech are encountered
<input type="checkbox"/> Has a receptive vocabulary of 500-900 or more words

<input type="checkbox"/> Has an expressive vocabulary of 50-250 or more words (rapid growth during this period)
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibits multiple grammatical errors
<input type="checkbox"/> Understands more things said to him
<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently exhibits repetitions – especially starters, “I”, and first syllables
<input type="checkbox"/> Speaks with a loud voice
<input type="checkbox"/> Increases range of pitch
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses vowels correctly
<input type="checkbox"/> Consistently uses initial consonants (although some are misarticulated)
<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently omits medial consonants
<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently omits or substitutes final consonants
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses approximately 27 phonemes
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses the auxiliary including the contracted form
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses some regular past tense verbs, possessive morphemes, pronouns and imperatives

3-4 Years

<input type="checkbox"/> Understands object functions
<input type="checkbox"/> Understands differences in meaning (stop-go, in-on)
<input type="checkbox"/> Follows 2 and 3 part commands
<input type="checkbox"/> Asks and answers simple questions (who, what, where, why)
<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently asks questions and often demands detail in responses
<input type="checkbox"/> Produces simple verbal analogies
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses language to express emotion
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses 4-5 words in sentences
<input type="checkbox"/> Repeats 6-13 syllable sentences accurately
<input type="checkbox"/> Identifies objects by name
<input type="checkbox"/> Manipulates adults and peers
<input type="checkbox"/> May continue to use echolalia
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses up to 6 words in a sentence
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses nouns and verbs more frequently
<input type="checkbox"/> Is conscious of past and future
<input type="checkbox"/> Has a 1200-2000 or more word receptive vocabulary
<input type="checkbox"/> Has a 800-1500 or more word expressive vocabulary
<input type="checkbox"/> May repeat self often, exhibiting blocks, disturbed breathing and facial grimaces during speech
<input type="checkbox"/> Increases speech rate
<input type="checkbox"/> Whispers
<input type="checkbox"/> Masters 50% of consonants and blends
<input type="checkbox"/> Speech is 80% intelligible
<input type="checkbox"/> Sentence grammar improves, although some errors still persist
<input type="checkbox"/> Appropriately uses <i>is</i> , <i>are</i> and <i>am</i> in sentences
<input type="checkbox"/> Tells two events in chronological order

<input type="checkbox"/> Engage in long conversations
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses some contractions, irregular plurals, future tense verbs, and conjunctions
<input type="checkbox"/> Consistently uses regular plurals, possessives, and simple past tense verbs
4-5 Years
<input type="checkbox"/> Imitatively counts to 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Understands concept of numbers up to 3
<input type="checkbox"/> Continues understanding of spatial concepts
<input type="checkbox"/> Recognizes 1-3 colors
<input type="checkbox"/> Has a receptive vocabulary of 2800 or more words
<input type="checkbox"/> Counts to 10 by rote
<input type="checkbox"/> Listens to short simple stories
<input type="checkbox"/> Answers questions about function
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses grammatically correct sentences
<input type="checkbox"/> Has an expressive vocabulary of 900-2000 or more words
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses sentences of 4-8 words
<input type="checkbox"/> Answers complex 2-part questions
<input type="checkbox"/> Asks for word definitions
<input type="checkbox"/> Speaks at a rate of approximately 186 words per minute
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduces total number of repetitions
<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoys rhymes, rhythms and nonsense syllables
<input type="checkbox"/> Produces consonants with 90% accuracy
<input type="checkbox"/> Significantly reduces number of persistent sound omissions and substitutions
<input type="checkbox"/> Frequently omits medial consonants
<input type="checkbox"/> Speech is usually intelligible to strangers
<input type="checkbox"/> Talks about experiences at school, at friends' home, etc
<input type="checkbox"/> Accurately relates a long story
<input type="checkbox"/> Pays attention to a story and answers simple questions about it
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses some irregular plurals, possessive pronouns, future tense, reflexive pronouns, and comparative morphemes in sentences
From: Communicative Disorders – An Assessment Manual <i>K.G. Shipley & J.G. McAfee</i>