

How well are they **COMMUNICATING?**

A Quick Reference Guide for Speech and Language Development



BY age **YOUR CHILD SHOULD**

1

- use jargon (babbling that sounds like real speech)
- begin to imitate some new words
- **may have first words** (2-5 words)
- enjoy interacting with others and have a desire to communicate
- **understand simple instructions/words** (e.g., Stand up, don't touch, sit down)
- give a toy on request
- understand own name



BY age **YOUR CHILD SHOULD**

1 1/2

- use **10-20 words** consistently
- words may not always be clearly pronounced
- words may be accompanied by gestures
- make at least 4 different consonant sounds (e.g., p, b, m, n, d, t, w, h)
- enjoy being read to and looking at simple books with an adult
- **understand simple directions** (e.g., "where's your..." or "show me the...")
- learn new words weekly



BY age **YOUR CHILD SHOULD**

2

- use **50-150 words**
- combine 2 words (e.g., "more juice", "hi daddy")
- **understand at least 300 words**
- respond appropriately to yes/no questions
- hold books the right way up and turn the pages



BY age **YOUR CHILD SHOULD**

2 1/2

- use about **250-350 words**
- be understood by at least some familiar adults, other people may have a hard time understanding them at times
- **understand about 500 words**
- **follow simple two-step commands** (e.g. "get your coat and wait at the door")
- be able to answer simple "who?" and "what's that?" questions
- understand position words such as in, on, under, up & down



BY age **YOUR CHILD SHOULD**

3

- use about **1000 words**
- talk in **short sentences (3-5 words)**, that are not always grammatically correct (e.g., "I eated it")
- use plurals (s), "ing" endings, prepositions on, in, under, negative: won't
- put end sounds on the end of words (e.g., dad)
- **be understood 90% of the time**
- **follow two step commands** (e.g., "take off your shoes and put them in the closet")
- answer "where?" & "what's he doing?"



BY age **YOUR CHILD SHOULD**

3 1/2

- be improving grammar to include: personal pronouns (e.g., I, you, my), plurals, early negatives (e.g., don't, can't, won't)
- pronounce f, k, g, s accurately in words
- **by 3 years 9 months** grammar continues to improve to include: is/are; he, she they; and possession (e.g., boy's)

If you are concerned about a child's development based on this information, a referral can be made to **Speech Services Niagara** for a speech and language screening.
Call **905-688-3550 ext. 151** for an appointment.



BY age **YOUR CHILD SHOULD**

4

- have a vocabulary of at least **2000 words**
- begin to use longer sentences (4 or more words) that include "**adult-like**" grammar (e.g. "he isn't there")
- be able to re-tell recent events with logical sequence
- be able to answer more complex questions (e.g., "what do you think will happen next?")
- pronounce l, sh, s-blends accurately in words
- **follow 3-step commands** (e.g., "get your boots, put them on, and go outside")
- follow instructions without the object being present
- be able to listen to stories for at least 15 minutes and remember details
- enjoy simple, silly jokes



BY age **YOUR CHILD SHOULD**

5

- use **sentences that sound almost like an adult**
- be able to participate in a conversation
- be able to use all sounds with the exception of "th" and "r"
- **understand long verbal directions** (e.g., "when grandpa arrives, tell him I'm outside and help him with his suitcase")
- point to basic colours
- enjoy jokes and riddles
- love to listen to stories, may act them out
- understand many descriptive words (e.g., soft, hard, tallest, shortest, long, short, top, bottom)



BY age **YOUR CHILD SHOULD**

6

- use grammatically correct sentences
- use a full range of sounds accurately

Call **905-688-3550 ext. 151** for an appointment