

## GETTING READY FOR KINDERGARTEN



Oral language skills are foundational to a child's school success in Kindergarten and beyond. Review the following communication skills. If you leave one or more checkboxes blank or are worried about your child's speech and language skills, call **Here4Kids** at **1-844-4KIDS-11 (1-844-454-3711)** as soon as possible.

### By 3 years old does your child . . .

- ☐ Use 900 to 1000 different words
- ☐ Use sentences of 3 or more words
- ☐ Understands 'What ... doing?', 'Where?', 'Who?', and "Do you ..?" questions
- ☐ Talk about things that happened in the past
- ☐ Tell a simple story
- ☐ Follows 2-part directions without a gesture (e.g., Go to the kitchen and get your shoes/")
- ☐ Speak clearly enough for people outside the family to understand most of the time
- ☐ Put sounds at the beginning and end of most words
- ☐ Clearly makes these sounds: p, b, m, n, h, w, d

(Adapted from: *WeeTalk Speech and Language Checklist*,

[www.wdgpulichealth.ca/your-kids/wee-talk-speech-and-language/how-speech-develops](http://www.wdgpulichealth.ca/your-kids/wee-talk-speech-and-language/how-speech-develops))

### By 4 years old does your child . . .

- ☐ Use 4 to 5 words sentences that have adult-like grammar
- ☐ Tell a story that is easy to follow, with a beginning, middle and end
- ☐ Predict what might happen next in a new story
- ☐ Give first and last name, gender and age
- ☐ Follow 3-part instructions (e.g., "Get your shoes, put them on, wait by the door")
- ☐ Speak clearly enough to be understood by people outside the family all of the time.
- ☐ Clearly makes these sounds: k, y, f, g, d, t
- ☐ Ask questions such as "what" and "Who", "why" to learn about the world.
- ☐ Uses grammar such as past tense ending "ed", verbs "is + verb-"ing" and pronouns "I", "me", consistently

**Supporting your child's communication skills:** Parents, **you**, have the superpower of boosting your child's language and literacy skills when you:

- Engage your child in conversations that go back and forth a number of times
- Respond with interest to whatever your child tells you, with or without words
- Frequently talk with your child about things of interest to them
- Expose your child to print in a variety of ways, especially with books.
- Read with your child by making book-reading a conversation that engages your child's prior knowledge, exposes them to new words, and encourages them to think beyond the "here and now".
- Talk at a level that your child can understand and learn from (not too complex or too simple)
- Expand or rephrase your child's sentences to make a more complex utterance.
- Model and stress the correct word forms in your speech (e.g., "He is running fast", "She danced on the floor")
- Provide your child with a good speech model by speaking clearly and slowly. Put extra emphasis on problem sounds in your own speech but do not demand that they repeat it after you.
- Expose your child to new experiences to help them learn new vocabulary/words. Use new words often across many situations

Adapted from "Parent Tips" - [www.Hanen.org](http://www.Hanen.org)