

Speech, Language and Listening Development (3-4 years)

3-4 years

The following is a rough guide to listening and language development. It is designed to provide you with information as well as practical tips to help your child's development. Please be aware that children develop at different rates depending on factors such as their hearing level and temperament. The most important focus should be that your child is making progress, rather than which stage he or she is at. If you have any concerns, please contact your hearing care professional for further advice.

Hearing and Listening

- Understands simple sentences and questions.
- Able to remember what he/she hears and repeat it back to you if there is a picture.

How can you help develop your child's hearing and listening?

Read nursery rhymes and see if your child can repeat them.

Language Development

- Uses 500 or more words.
- Combines words to form 3-5 word sentences.
- Relates experiences.
- Gives first name.
- Gives age using fingers.
- Asks "who", "what", "where" and "why" questions.
- Knows some colors.
- Can recite some rhymes.

How can you help develop your child's speech and language?

- Read longer books and ask simple questions about them.
- Ask your child questions about what he/she is doing or has done.
- Be a good listener.
- Expand your child's language: Child: "The dog is barking"
Adult: "Yes, the dog is barking. He wants a dog bone. Would you like to give him one?"

References and further resources

- www.babyhearing.org
- Cole, E.B. (1992) Listening and talking. Washington D C: A G Bell Assoc. for the Deaf
- Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency: www.aea9.k12.ia.us