

Speech and Language Skills Checklist

Three to Four Years of Age

The skills listed below are usually obtained by four years of age. Some skills are acquired earlier than others, and this is completely normal.

Articulation (Speech Skills)

Skill	Yes <i>My child does that</i>	No <i>Haven't seen that</i>	It's Complicated <i>Sometimes or, Don't know that means!</i>	Notes
T				
D				
K				
G				
NG (i.e., running)				
80% intelligible to unfamiliar listener				

Listen for each sound at the beginning, middle, and end of words.

Expressive Language Skills (Speaking Skills)

Skill	Yes <i>My child does that</i>	No <i>Haven't seen that</i>	It's Complicated <i>Sometimes or, Don't know that means!</i>	Notes
Uses about 500 words				
Speaks with 4+ word phrases				
Talks about events with a simple story structure				
Uses regular past tense verbs				
Uses possessive -s: mommy's keys				
Recognizes songs and can sing them				

Receptive Language Skills (Understanding Skills)

Skill	Yes <i>My child does that</i>	No <i>Haven't seen that</i>	It's Complicated <i>Sometimes or, Don't know that means!</i>	Notes
Understands 900 words				
Knows colors				
Answers age appropriate yes/no questions				
Answers simple WH questions: what, where, what doing				

How to Use Checklist

Overview:

This checklist is meant to be a guideline. My recommendation is to print it out and make a note in the yes, no, or it's complicated column for each skill. It may take a few days or even a few months of observing. Make any notes of concerns or questions in the last column.

For professionals, this is a nice checklist to measure overall progress of your students or to give to parents as a handout.

Uses:

- Explains speech and language milestones in simplified terms
- Helps parents to understand if their child is on track or if there is anything that needs further investigating
- Keeps track of child's progress concerning speech and language development
- General guidelines for goal writing

Interpretation:

Your child's profile does not diagnosis any disorder! It does not even indicate that your child needs or doesn't need an evaluation.

Instead, this checklist is designed to give parents and professionals a quick glance of what to expect concerning their children's speech and language development. It creates a broad picture of your child's current strengths and possible areas of need.