

Four Year-Olds

Telling Stories and Making Friends

Every child develops differently, but the following milestones can help you determine whether your child is gaining speech and language skills at an appropriate level for his or her age. Children typically do not master all items in a category until they reach the upper age range.

Language Comprehension

- ❖ Shows interest in how things work
- ❖ Understands concept of the numbers (e.g. "Give me 3".)
- ❖ Knows the concepts "between", "above", "below", "top", "bottom"
- ❖ Understands words that relate one idea to another "if", "why", "when"
- ❖ Has receptive vocabulary of 2,800 or more words

Language Expression

- ❖ Uses the same grammar as the rest of the family
- ❖ "If" and "so" appear in sentences
- ❖ Has an expressive vocabulary of 900 to 2,000 or more words
- ❖ Uses sentences that give lots of details (e.g. "My dog is big, furry and brown.")
- ❖ Uses "could" and "would" in sentences
- ❖ Answers complex 2-part questions
- ❖ Uses irregular plurals fairly consistently (child/children)
- ❖ Uses "our", "they" and "their" consistently
- ❖ Uses contractions such as "it's a" or "there's a"
- ❖ Describes objects by function (e.g. "What do you do with a comb?")
- ❖ Counts to 10 by rote
- ❖ Names 3 colors

Speech

- ❖ Produces consonants with 90% accuracy
- ❖ May omit middle sounds in longer words ("bufly" for "butterfly")
- ❖ Others outside the family usually understand speech



Pragmatics

- ❖ Can discuss emotions and feelings effectively
- ❖ Stories have sequence of events but no main character or theme
- ❖ Possessive pronouns emerge (e.g. "his" and "hers")
- ❖ Expresses anger verbally rather than physically
- ❖ Talks about experiences at school, at friends' homes, etc.

Play

- ❖ Shows off dramatically
- ❖ Good imaginative play
- ❖ Likes cutting out and pasting
- ❖ Likes working on projects - may carryover from day to day
- ❖ Plays in groups of 2 to 5
- ❖ Watches life situation programs on TV and gains information from dialogue
- ❖ Draws unmistakable human body with arms, legs, feet, nose and eyes