

0-5 Speech, Language and Communication Assessment Tool

Age	Attention and Listening	Social skills and Play	Understanding	Expression	Speech sounds
Pre-Birth	From 24 weeks gestation: Children's language development begins in the womb at approximately 24 weeks gestation, the unborn child can first hear and discriminate the sounds of their family's voices				
0-6 months	Fleeting attention.	Looks at adult closely. Plays alone with toys i.e. rattles	Shows excitement at sound of approaching voices.	Make noises to get attention and makes sounds back when talked to.	Babbles to self.
6-12 months	Continued fleeting attention.	Looks at and imitates adults. Likes simple games i.e. Peek-a-boo Still plays alone.	Starts to understand bye bye. Recognises familiar words and name.	Babble strings of sounds. Point and show toys. Begins to use gesture e.g. waving	Uses speech sounds to communicate with adults e.g. baba, nono
12-18 months	Will attend to own choice of activity, but will not tolerate intervention, particularly verbal.	Starts to play with grownups and notice other children. Basic pretend play emerging.	Understands single words in context e.g. cup, daddy Understands simple instructions e.g. kiss mummy, give it to daddy	Points to communicate own needs / wants. Uses single words e.g. cat, cup, milk	Experiments with using different sounds. Words used might not be clear.
18-24 months	Will attend to own choice of activity, but will not tolerate intervention, particularly verbal (single channelled) Enjoys rhymes and demonstrates listening by trying to join in with actions or vocalisations.	Development of pretend play. Recognition of common objects. Imitates adults in simple tasks. Able to predict everyday events.	Understands most of the simple language heard. Starting to understand 2 key word instructions e.g. throw the ball Selects objects by name and finds objects when asked.	Using a range of single words (usually around 50 words) Starting to put 2 words together e.g. ball gone Copies familiar expressions e.g. Oh dear Beginning to ask simple questions.	Often unintelligible Words often reduced e.g. banana to 'nana'

<p>24-36 months</p>	<p>Still single channelled attention.</p> <p>Will attend to adult's choice of activity, but still difficult to control.</p> <p>Listens with interest to noises adults make as they read stories.</p>	<p>Imitates small play sequences</p> <p>Watches other children play and occasionally joins in.</p>	<p>Understands instructions containing 2 key words e.g. where's teddy's eyes?</p> <p>Understands who, what and where in simple questions.</p> <p>Identifies action words by pointing e.g. Who's jumping?</p>	<p>Frequently uses 2-word combinations.</p> <p>Starting to put 3 words together</p> <p>Holds a conversation jumping from topic to topic.</p> <p>Uses a variety of questions e.g. what, where, who?</p>	<p>P, b, m, n and w sounds are used properly.</p> <p>The endings of words may be missed off.</p>
<p>36-48 months</p>	<p>Single channelled, but more easily controlled.</p> <p>Listens 1 to 1 or in small groups when subject interests them.</p> <p>Listens to stories with increasing attention and recall.</p>	<p>Starting to interact more with peers.</p> <p>Takes turns.</p> <p>Will listen to stories and look at pictures.</p>	<p>Understands instructions with 3 key words e.g. "make dolly jump on the chair"</p> <p>Starting to understand concepts e.g. big/little and on/under</p> <p>Beginning to understand how and why questions.</p>	<p>Speaks using at least 3-word combinations</p> <p>Starting to use simple sentences.</p> <p>Language rapidly expanding.</p> <p>Can stammer due to eagerness.</p> <p>Uses a range of tenses.</p>	<p>Previous sounds plus t, d, k, g, ng (as in thing) are used properly.</p>
<p>48 – 60 months</p>	<p>Integrated attention i.e. can listen and do.</p> <p>Attention span is still short.</p> <p>Maintains attention, concentration and sits quietly during an appropriate activity.</p>	<p>Make believe play with friends.</p> <p>Follows rules.</p> <p>Plays with and talks to other children.</p>	<p>Can understand quite complex sentences.</p> <p>Understands many concepts.</p> <p>Able to follow a story without pictures or prompts.</p>	<p>Has a large vocabulary.</p> <p>Uses mostly grammatically correct sentences.</p>	<p>Previous sounds plus f, v, s, z, l are used properly.</p> <p>sh, ch and j sounds are emerging.</p> <p>May still struggle to say 'r' and 'th' sounds and consonant clusters e.g. 'sp' 'pr' 'bl' etc.</p>