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**Have this checklist handy when you call to discuss your child's speech & language needs.**

*Remember: This is not a full and complete list and does not replace assessment by a speech pathologist.  
It should be used as a guide only.*

## What to Expect

- Able to follow longer and more complex directions, with multiple steps
- Able to remember more information at once
- Can tell a short story
- Able to understand well over 1200-1500 words
- Understands the use of objects (eg. a knife is for cutting)
- Understands location words (eg. on, off, in, out)
- Understands negative words in sentences (eg. which dog is *not* eating?)
- Has a sentence length of minimum 4-5 words
- Has an expressive vocabulary of 1000+ words
- Names familiar colours
- Uses simple grammar (eg. reading, books)
- Uses words to request things and activities, label things, describe things, comment on things
- Able to ask and answer simple questions (eg. Who? What? Where? Why?)
- Able to say last name and name of home street
- Uses most speech sounds but may distort more difficult sounds such as l, r, s, z, th.



## When to Refer

- If your child has difficulty following instructions and needs repetitions
- If your child has difficulty speaking in sentences
- If there are a number of grammar errors
- If there are still a number of speech sounds produced incorrectly
- If speech cannot always be easily understood by people outside the family

***Seeing a Speech Pathologist as early as possible can help your child to achieve their best and put them on the path to successful communication!***

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Checklist developed from the following sources:

- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association factsheets: Four to Five Years, retrieved on 26/10/2016 from [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org)
- Speech-Language and Audiology Canada, *Speech, Language and Hearing Milestones*, retrieved on 26/10/16 from [www.sac-oac.ca](http://www.sac-oac.ca)
- Speech Pathology Australia, *The Sound of Speech: preschool & school aged children* retrieved on 26/10/16 from [www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)
- Raising Children Network, *Language Development:4-5 years* retrieved on 26/10/17 from <http://raisingchildren.net.au>