

## Speech & developmental milestones

These speech and developmental milestones reflect what children are typically achieving around the ages of 3 to 4.

**Please note:**

This advice is general in nature - every child is unique and will develop at their own pace. However, if you are concerned or have questions, we advise you contact a professional for support. You can contact our Speech Pathology team at 1800 352 437.

**SPEECH SKILLS:**

- Child can say the following sounds: p, b, m, d, n, h, t, k, g, w, f, ng, y
- Child can say the following clusters: tw, kw
- At approximately 36 months, child's speech should be 75-100% intelligible to familiar listeners in conversations (ie. mother, father, close family members).
- At approximately 36 months, child's speech should be 75% intelligible to unfamiliar listeners in conversations (ie. friends, people whom the child does not see frequently, new communication partners).

**LITERACY SKILLS:**

- Begins to pay attention to specific print, such as the first letter of their name
- Recognises logos and other environmental print and understands that print carries a message
- Identifies some letters and makes letter/sound matches
- Participates in rhyming games
- Talks about characters in a book
- Likes to 'read' stories to themselves and others
- Protests if an adult changes the story
- Produces some letter-like forms in scribbles that resemble letters.

**LANGUAGE SKILLS:**

- Can use and understand words around quantity ('empty, full, a lot')
- Understands and uses position concepts 'next to, beside, between, in front'
- Identifies colours
- Points to an object that is different from others
- Answers more complex questions logically, such as 'who, why, where' and 'how'
- Answers 'If... what?' questions, such as 'If it starts raining, what would you do?'
- Answers questions about functions of objects, such as 'What are spoons for?', 'Why do we have shoes?'
- Asks one-word 'why' questions
- Uses pronouns: eg. her, hers, him, his, they, their, us, our
- Uses 'what', 'where', 'when', 'how', and 'whose' when asking questions
- Asks 'is' questions
- At around 36 months, children should have approximately 1000 words in their expressive vocabulary
- At around 42 months, children should have approximately 1200 words in their expressive vocabulary.
- At around 48 months, children should have approximately 1,600 words in their expressive vocabulary.

**PLAY/INTERACTION/SOCIAL SKILLS**

- Follows two-step related directions without cues
- Takes turns and plays cooperatively
- Relates personal experiences through verbalisation
- Separates from primary caregiver easily
- Frequently practices conversations skills by talking to self
- Begins dramatic play, acting out whole scenes
- Shows frustration if not understood
- Expresses ideas and feelings.

**Need some professional advice?**  
Our Elcies Speech Pathology team are here to help.  
Get in touch today!

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