

## Speech & developmental milestones

These speech and developmental milestones reflect what children are typically achieving around the ages of 4 to 5.

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, l, j, ch, sh, s, z, v
- Child can say the following clusters: tw, kw, pl, bl, lw (by 4 years of age) and gl, fl, sp, st, sk, sw, kr (by 4 years and 6 months of age)
- At approximately 48 months, child's speech should be 95% intelligible to unfamiliar listeners in conversations (ie. friends, people whom the child does not see frequently, new communication partners).

### LITERACY SKILLS:

- Understands story sequence
- Understands the function and purpose of print
- Knows many letter names
- Uses more letter-like forms than scribbles.

### LANGUAGE SKILLS:

- Understands comparative and superlative adjectives, such as big, bigger, biggest
- Understands time concepts eg. yesterday, today, tomorrow, first, then, next, days of the week, last week, next week
- Understand and use spatial concepts (e.g., nearest, through)
- Understand and use descriptive concepts (e.g., 'thin', 'whole') to describe objects or quantities
- Identifies positional concepts: first, middle, last
- Answers 'when' questions
- Answers 'how many' questions (where the answer does not exceed four)
- Asks the following types of questions using correct grammatical structure: Early Infinitive - 'Do you want to...?' Future: 'Are we going to...?' Modal (can/may) - 'Can you...?'
- At around 48 months, children should have approximately 1,600 words in their expressive vocabulary
- At around 54 months, children should have approximately 1,900 words in their expressive vocabulary
- At around 60 months, children should have approximately 2,200-2,500 words in their expressive vocabulary.

**Need some professional advice?**

Our Elcies Speech Pathology team are here to help. Get in touch today!

### PLAY/INTERACTION/SOCIAL SKILLS

- Follows three-step directions without cues
- Uses direct requests with justification (e.g., 'Stop that. You're hurting me.')
- Uses words to invite others to play
- Uses language to resolve disputes with peers
- Plays competitive exercise games
- Has good control of the elements of conversation
- Speaks of imaginary conditions, such as 'What if...' or 'I hope...'

**1800 352 437**

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