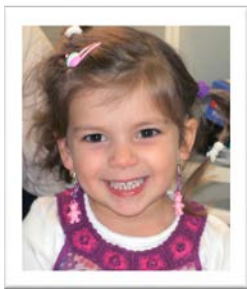


## Age 4

### Speech and language:

At 4 years of age, a child will follow instructions like "put your pyjamas on". Children will understand words expressing order (e.g. first, next) and time (e.g. yesterday, today). They will understand most of what is said to them. A 4-year-old can say all speech sounds in words, though may make mistakes on some sounds (e.g. l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th). They will respond to "What did you say?", and be able to tell a short story.



## 5 years (School Age)

### Speech and language:

By the end of their first year of school, a child would be able to follow simple instructions in a sequence and understand age-appropriate stories read aloud. Children would be able to answer simple "yes/no" and open-ended questions (e.g. "What did you have for lunch today?"). They would be able to retell a story or talk about an event, and participate appropriately in conversations. Their speech would be understood by most people.



**Your child's language skills will continue to develop as he/she moves through school into adulthood.**



**If you are concerned about the way your child's speech and language skills are developing, we recommend you consult with your local speech pathologist.**

The information in this brochure has been compiled by the National Acoustic Laboratories, based on "How does your child hear and talk", American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), 2014 ([www.asha.org/public/speech/development/chart/](http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/chart/)) and **Neurological and developmental foundations of speech acquisition**, Mcleod, S. & Bleile, K., 2003



## Developmental Milestones Birth to 5 years

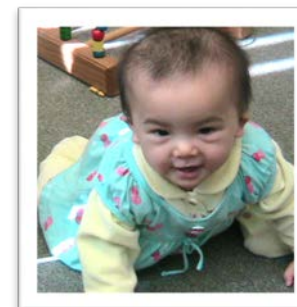


**Watching your child develop, you will see new things every day. Here are some of the changes that occur in a typically developing child as they grow and learn to communicate.**

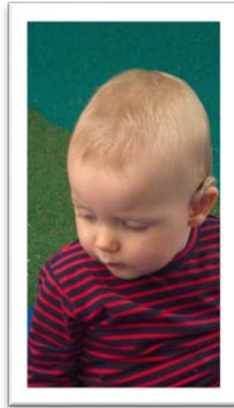
## Birth to 1 year

### Speech and language:

Babies will make sounds to express pleasure (e.g. cooing), and different needs. They will smile at you, and seem to recognise and respond to familiar voices. They will startle when a sound is loud. At 4-6 months, they will look in the direction of the source of sounds, respond to changes in tone of voice, and attend



to music. They will babble and make sounds like pa, ba, ma. They will chuckle and make gurgling sounds. At 7-12 months, they will enjoy games (e.g. peek-a-boo), recognise names for some items (e.g. cup, shoe) and begin to respond to requests (e.g. "come here"). They will use gestures and babble to communicate, and use non-crying sounds to get attention. By about 1 year of age, they will imitate speech sounds and produce one or two words (e.g. "hi", "dog").



### General:

At around 2-4 months, babies will start to lift their heads, reach out and grasp. At around 5-6 months, they will develop head control, sit with support, mouth objects and chew. At 7 months, they will be learning to crawl and stand. At 9-10 months, they will start learning to drink from a cup, and at around 11 months, will take their first steps.

## Age 1

### Speech and language:

At 12-24 months, a child will be able to point to a few body parts when asked, and follow simple verbal instructions (e.g. "roll the ball"). They will respond to simple stories, songs and rhyme; and point to pictures in a book when named. The

number of words they can say will grow every month. They will start to put 2 words together for responding to questions (e.g. "no juice") or for asking questions (e.g. "what that?"). The number of consonant sounds they can say will grow to include m, p, b, w, n, t, d.

### General:

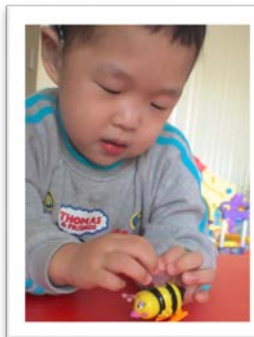
Between 1-2 years, a child will learn to pick up small objects with their thumb/finger, build a tower of 3-4 blocks, scribble lines on paper, walk and run unassisted, walk upstairs, jump (lifting both feet) and kick a ball.



## Age 2

### Speech and language:

At 2 years, a child will understand a range of concepts (e.g. go-stop) and follow instructions that have two parts (e.g. "Get the book and put it on the table"). Children will listen to stories and pay attention for longer periods of time. They will have words for almost everything and produce two- or three- word utterances. Their speech sounds will include k, g, f, t,

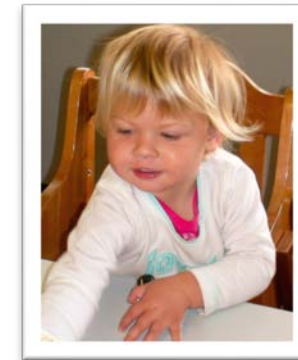


d, and n, and their speech will be understood by familiar listeners most of the time. A 2-year-old will often ask "why?"; and request objects by naming them. For a short period of time, some may stutter on words.

## Age 3

### Speech and language:

At 3 years, a child will respond to his/her name when called, even when the talker is not visible. Children will understand words for some colours (e.g. red, blue, green) and shapes (e.g. circle, square). They will talk about activities, using a few



sentences at a time. Their speech will usually be intelligible even to unfamiliar people. A 3-year-old child will answer simple "who?", "what?", and "where?" questions, and will ask "when?" and "how?" questions. They will say rhyming words (e.g. hat-cat), use pronouns (e.g. I, you) and some plural words (e.g. toys and buses). They will usually talk easily without repeating syllables or words.

