

Paediatric Speech-Language Referral Checklist

Age	Concern	✓
18 months – 2 years	Concerns regarding swallowing (food and/or liquid)	
	No babbling or words vocalized	
	No understanding of familiar words	
	Little response to spoken language (no head turn to voice)	
2 years – 3 years	Concerns regarding swallowing (food and/or liquid)	
	Does not point or make meaningful gestures (eg wave bye bye)	
	Does not have 50-100 words in vocabulary	
	Does not combine words into 2-3-word sentences	
	Understands less than 10 everyday object and action words	
	Child is difficult to understand by unfamiliar listener more than 50% of the time	
3 years – 4 years	Does not follow 2-3 step directions	
	Difficult to understand more than 50% of the time	
	Does not use 4-5 word sentences.	
	Substitutes sounds (eg. T for K 'tootie for cookie')	
	Demonstrates stopping/starting, repetitions of words/part-words (stuttering)	
4 years – 5 years	Demonstrates difficulty with rhyming/word play	
	Demonstrates difficulty with memory/attention	
	Demonstrates difficulty with literacy skills (decoding letters/sounds)	
	Cannot follow 3-4 step directions	
5 years – 8 years	Difficulty recalling information from a story	
	Demonstrates limited vocabulary (I want to go to the place that I went that other time)	
	Mixes up word order in sentences/uses poor grammar ("I goed that place")	
8 years +	Difficulty understanding complex instructions	
	Difficulty initiating and maintaining a conversation with peers	
	Difficulty maintaining a topic of conversation for more than 3 conversational turns	
	Difficulty verbalizing complex thoughts and ideas	
	Difficulty asking appropriate questions to obtain the most relevant and useful information	
	Difficulty organizing and sequencing verbal and/or written stimuli	

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