

Communication from 2 to 5 Years of Age

4 to 5 Years

- describe how to do something, such as *make a sandwich*
- give his or her first, middle and last name and address when asked
- use sentences that are 5 – 8 words long
- talk about what group an item belongs to, such as *a horse is an animal, an orange is a fruit*
- use the sounds *l, sh, ch, s,* and *j* correctly. It is possible that some children may acquire these sounds through development up to the age of 7 years



You encourage communication with your child when you...

2 to 2 ½ Years

- ✓ Comment on how you think your child feels and encourage your child to express his or her feelings, such as *“I’m mad!”*
- ✓ Teach your child matching games involving objects, pictures and colours.
- ✓ Read books to your child as part of a daily routine, such as *at nap time*.
- ✓ Use descriptive words such as *big, little, empty, soft, wet,* and *dirty*.

You encourage communication with your child when you...

2 ½ to 3 Years

- ✓ Talk about similarities and differences among objects.
- ✓ Help your child group objects together, such as *things to ride in, wear, etc...*
- ✓ Let your child play with other children of the same age.
- ✓ Encourage your child to tell stories using books and pictures.
- ✓ Play word games using silly rhymes.

3 to 4 Years

- ✓ Ask questions that require more than a yes or no answer, such as *“What is he playing?”*
- ✓ Give your child opportunities to cut, colour, paste, and draw pictures.
- ✓ Talk about the kinds of things we eat, wear, etc..., so your child can group things.
- ✓ Practice songs and rhymes.
- ✓ Encourage your child to look at letters and words.



4 to 5 Years

- ✓ Encourage your child to talk about his or her ideas, wishes, fears, and to ask questions about them.
- ✓ Ask your child to solve problems, such as *if your child shows you a broken toy, you ask “what should we do?”* Expect an answer such as *“glue it.”*
- ✓ Read books with short chapters to your child, such as *Series: “Toad for Tuesday” (Erickson), The Big Big Big Book of Tashi (Fienberg) And The Three Tales of My Father’s Dragon (Stiles Gannett).*
- ✓ Help your child plan and do an activity with you such as making cookies.

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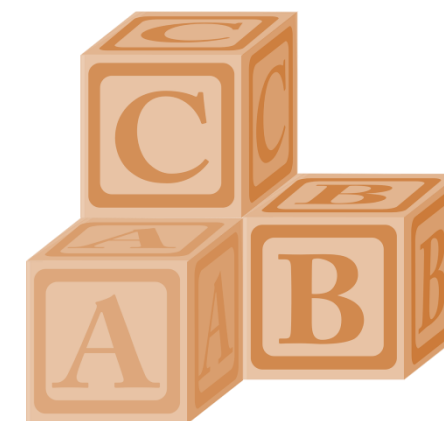
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Speech and Language

Communication Birth to 5 Years



Population and Public Health

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Communication from Birth to 2 Years of Age

Your child should ...

By age...



Birth to 6 Months

- smile and coo, such as *ooh, aah*
- have different cries for different feelings
- respond to caregivers' voices, different sounds, and familiar objects
- look at people with interest
- babble using sounds, such as *puh, buh, muh*

6 to 10 Months

- combine consonants and vowels, such as *nana, dada, baba, adudu*
- use "speech-like" babble
- respond to no and his or her name
- point and gesture (by 9 months of age)

10 to 18 Months

- follow simple commands, such as "*Give me the cup.*"
- point to a few body parts, objects and pictures
- say his or her first 'real' words, such as *ball, hi, bye, mama, dada*
- use speech that is difficult to understand
- play social games, such as *patty cake* or *peekaboo*
- show interest in others' activities

18 to 24 Months

- imitate animal sounds, such as "*meow*", "*moo*"
- use 20 – 50 words, such as *eat, dirty, mine, and child's own name*
- pronounce many words incorrectly

You encourage communication with your child when you ...

First

- ✓ Use a warm, natural, playful tone of voice when you talk to your baby.
- ✓ Sing lullabies in a gentle voice, while you rock, cuddle your baby, and look at each other.
- ✓ Talk to and look at your baby while you cuddle and take care of him or her.
- ✓ Respond to your baby's attempts at communication, such as *Shouts for attention, pointing to objects, babbling.*
- ✓ Babble back to your baby when he or she babbles.
- ✓ Take turns copying each other's babbling.

Then

- ✓ Use simple, clear speech.
- ✓ Talk about daily routines using simple words or short sentence while you do them.
- ✓ Listen to your baby's attempts to use words, then say the words back correctly.
- ✓ Name actions and objects that your child shows interest in.
- ✓ Repeat what your child says and add one or two words to it, such as *If your child says "juice", you say "here's more juice."*
- ✓ Look at simple picture books with your child.



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Communication from 2 to 5 Years of Age

When listening, your child should ...

2 to 2 ½ Years

- understand words such as *in, on, one, all, big, little, morning* and *night*
- follow directions, such as "*Get the book and sit down.*"
- listen to a 5 to 10 minute story

2 ½ to 3 Years

- understand words such as *go, stop, under, up, down, empty* and *full*
- listen to a 20 minute story
- point to pictures or objects when asked, such as "*What do you ride?*"

3 to 4 Years

- understand words such as *in front of, behind, hard, rough, heavier, and not*
- identify 6 body parts and 4 colours
- group objects together, such as *animals*
- follow directions such as, "*Go downstairs and get your book.*"
- make conclusions, such as *If you come in from outside with wet shoes, your child knows it's raining outside.*

4 to 5 Years

- understand words such as *faster, thin, pointed, above, bottom, short, and different*
- understand most of what others say
- understand directions such as, "*Point to the small black bear.*"
- remember stories and TV commercials
- identify what is missing when shown 3 objects and then shown the same group with one item taken out

When talking, your child should ...

2 to 2 ½ Years

- put words together, such as "*More juice*", "*No eat*", "*Daddy go car.*"
- use words such as *in, on, me, and you*
- answer simple questions, such as "*What's this?*" "*Where's your teddy?*"
- name objects in pictures
- use the sounds *m, p, n, h, and w* correctly

2 ½ to 3 Years

- use 3 or more words in each sentence, such as "*Push my truck*", "*What daddy doing?*"
- use words such as *walking, red, mom's, dogs, I, and mine*
- ask *what* and *where* questions
- answer simple questions needing *yes* or *no* for an answer and questions such as, "*What do you do when you are sleepy?*"
- be understood by most listeners

3 to 4 Years

- use words such as *don't, walked, is, and, he, she*
- tell you how objects are used
- answer simple *why* and *what if* questions, such as "*What would you do if you fell down?*"
- re-tell familiar stories, such as *The Three Pigs.*
- use the sounds *k, g* and *f* correctly
- complete opposites, such as *a bike is little, a car is ... (big)*



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