

Your Child's Communication

Development: Kdg through 5th Grade

Is your child in elementary school? Use this guide to learn about your student's speech and language development. By the end of the school year, your child should be able to do the following tasks in each area.



Kindergarten

Listening

- Follow 1–2 simple directions in a row.
- Listen to and understand stories.
- Follow a simple conversation

Speaking

- Speak clearly enough so that most people understand what he says.
- Answer simple yes/no questions.
- Answer questions like, "What did you have for lunch today?"
- Retell a story or talk about something he did.
- Take turns talking and keep a conversation going.
- Show interest in and start conversations.

First Grade

Listening

- Remember what they hear.
- Follow two- to three-step directions in a row.

Speaking

- Speak clearly so that anyone can understand him.
- Answer harder yes/no questions.
- Tell and retell stories that make sense.
- Share her ideas using complete sentences.
- Use most parts of speech, or grammar, correctly.
- Ask and answer who, what, when, where, and why questions.
- Stay on topic and take turns in conversation.
- Give directions.
- Start conversations.

Second Grade

Listening

- Follow 3–4 directions in a row.
- Understand direction words, like *here*, *there*, *over*, *next to*, *before*, or *later*.
- Answers questions about a second grade-level story.

Speaking

- Speak clearly.
- Answer harder yes/no questions.
- Ask and answer who, what, when, where, and why questions.
- Use more complex sentences.
- Explain words and ideas.
- Give directions with 3–4 steps.
- Use words to inform, persuade, and entertain.
- Stay on topic, take turns, and keep eye contact during conversations.
- Start and end conversations.

Third Grade

Listening

- Pay attention in groups.
- Understand grade-level information.

Speaking

- Speak clearly. Know when to talk with a soft or loud voice.
- Ask and answer questions.
- Be a part of conversations and group discussions.
- Use words related to school subjects. For example, math, science, or history words.
- Stay on topic, use eye contact, and take turns in conversation.
- Summarize a story.
- Explain what she learned in school.

Fourth Grade

Listening

- Listen to and understand information.
- Form opinions based on what she hears.
- Listen for specific reasons, such as to learn, enjoy, or convince.

Speaking

- Use words correctly in conversation.
- Use language for many reasons, like asking questions, arguing, and joking.
- Understand some figurative language. This is language that uses words in new or different ways. For example, "This classroom is a zoo!"
- Take part in group discussions.
- Give correct directions to others.
- Summarize ideas in his own words.
- Organize information so it is clear.
- Give clear speeches.

Fifth Grade

Listening

- Listen and draw conclusions in different classes.

Speaking

- Make planned speeches. She should know her audience and include information for that group.
- Deliver a speech. He should keep eye contact and use gestures and a loud voice.
- Take part in class discussions.
- Summarize main points.
- Report about information from group activities.

Children develop at their own rate. The skills listed are what most students can do by the end of that grade.

Your Child's Communication Development Kindergarten Through Fifth Grade, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) Website, <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/communicationdevelopment/>