



THE CENTER FOR PEDIATRIC THERAPY

Speech, Occupational, & Physical Therapy

How do I know if my school-age child needs speech-language services?

5 YEARS

1. Can use many descriptive words spontaneously both adjectives and adverbs
2. Knows common opposites: big-little, hard-soft, heavy-light, etc
3. Can count to ten
4. Speech should be completely intelligible, in spite of articulation problems
5. Should have all vowels and the consonants, m,p,b,h,w,k,g,t,d,n,ng,y (yellow)
6. Should be able to define common objects in terms of use (hat, shoe, chair)
7. Should be able to follow three commands given without interruptions
8. Should know his age
9. Should have simple time concepts: morning, afternoon, night, day, later, after, while
10. Should be using fairly long sentences and should use some compound and some complex sentences
11. Speech on the whole should be grammatically correct
12. Understands approximately 2,500-2,800 words

6 YEARS

1. In addition to the above consonants these should be mastered: f, v, sh, zh, th, l
2. Speech should be completely intelligible and socially useful
3. Should be able to tell one a rather connected story about a picture, seeing relationships
4. Understands approximately 20,000-26,000 words
5. Understands concepts of time: hour, minute, day
6. Answers the phone, remembers simple message, and delivers to correct person
7. Realizes that other people have ideas and feelings that may be different from his or her own

7 YEARS

1. Should have mastered the consonants s-z, r, voiceless th, ch, wh, and the soft g as in George
2. Should handle opposite analogies easily: girl-boy, man-woman, flies-swims, blunt-sharp, short-long, etc
3. Understands such terms as: alike, different, beginning, end, etc
4. Should be able to do simple reading and to write or print many words

8 YEARS

1. Can relate rather involved accounts of events, many of which occurred at some time in the past
2. Complex and compound sentences should be used easily
3. Should be few lapses in grammatical constructions-tense, pronouns, and plurals
4. All speech sounds, including consonant blends should be established
5. Should be reading with considerable ease and now writing simple compositions
6. Social amenities should be present in his speech in appropriate situations
7. Control of rate, pitch, and volume are generally well and appropriately established
8. Can carry on conversation at rather adult level

If your child is experiencing problems on this checklist, speech-language intervention may be helpful. Contact your local speech-language pathologist for more information at 985.449.0944.