

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

What to look for

Your child...

Can speak in complete sentences

Can follow directions with at least two steps

Can understand words such as 'top' and 'bottom', 'big' and 'little'

Can follow directions in a simple game with other children or adults.

Can say or sing familiar songs and nursery rhymes

Can recognize when words rhyme, such as 'cat' and 'hat'

To encourage your child's language development:

Take time each day to listen to and talk with your child. Some good times for conversation are while traveling, at mealtimes and at bedtime.

Encourage your child to listen and use language to express ideas.

Involve your child in activities and games that require listening and following directions.

Read and tell stories that have interesting characters and easy-to-follow plots. Talk with your child about the stories after you read or tell them.

Read and sing nursery rhymes and rhyming stories with your child.



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Your child...

Can match two pictures that are alike

Can tell things that go together (a spoon and a fork, a fish and a boat)

Can match, recognize and name circle, square, and triangle



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Your child...

Can cut with child-sized scissors

Can run at a comfortable speed in intended direction

Can hop several times on each foot

Can throw a ball or beanbag in intended direction

Can catch a large ball or beanbag

Can jump over a low object, such as a line, string, or balance beam

Can bounce a large ball several times

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Getting Ready for Kindergarten: Social and Emotional Development

