

Speech and Language Development

Please keep in mind that these are general guidelines and that each child varies.

Sound Acquisition: Generally, children should make the following sounds correctly by the ages indicated.

3 to 4 years: m, b, n, t, p, d, k, g, w, h, and vowels

5 to 6 years: sh, ch, l, l blends

7 years: v, j, th, s, z, r, s blends, r blends

Vocabulary and Sentences

12 to 18 months first words

2 years 2-word sentences

3 years 3 to 4 word sentences 400 to 900 word vocabulary

5 years 5 to 6 word sentences 1500 to 2500 word vocabulary

After age 5, the child rapidly advances. The child understands many more words than he can say.

Fluency

Hesitations in speech are normal from ages three to six. Listen to your child, encourage and praise him. Don't correct him or appear anxious about his speech. Don't make him speak or recite before strangers or visitors. Let him do so if he wishes, but only then. Try to keep your own speech clear and unhurried. If you are very concerned, consult a speech-language pathologist for help.