

Ages 3-4 years

- Asks and answers simple who, what, when, where, and why questions
- People outside of the family usually understand them
- Speaks in sentences of four or more words
- Uses some past tense verb forms (played, ate, ran)
- Knows common opposites (big/little)



Ages 5-6 years

- Listens to short stories and answers questions about them
- Communicates easily with others
- Says most sounds correctly except a few like l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, th, j
- Uses the same grammar as the rest of the family
- Tells a story that sticks to the topic



www.asha.org/public/speech
www.childdevelopmentinfo.com

If you have concerns about your child's speech and language development, please call Tumwater School District Special services department at 709-7040. We provide screenings and speech therapy for children ages 0-5, in addition to services at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

Tumwater School District Special Services Speech and Language Department

Typical Speech and Language Development Milestones:

Birth to Five Years

What Can You Expect?

Your child will develop speech and language gradually. Your child's speech begins when you, the parent, interact with your child. Your child's speech will usually begin with early vocal sounds and babbling and move through predictable stages until he or she is talking like the rest of the family.

Tumwater School District
621 Linwood Avenue, Tumwater WA 98512 360-709-7000

Birth to Age 1 (0-12 months)

- Moves eyes in direction of sound (infant)
- Enjoys games like peek-a-boo
- Understands common words like “cup,” “shoe,” and “milk”
- Imitates speech sounds
- Responds to simple requests
- By age one, may say one or two words besides “mama” and “dada”



Ages 1-2 years (12-24 months)

- Points to a few body parts or pictures in a book when asked
- Uses 2 word phrases
- 25-50% is understandable
- Has a vocabulary of 50-100 words
- Uses some sounds at the beginnings of words
- Asks simple questions such as “What’s that?”
- Makes requests



Ages 2-3 years (24-36 months)

- Follows simple 2 step requests (i.e., “Go get your shoes and bring them to me.”)
- Enjoys listening to stories for longer periods of time
- Vocabulary averages 200-300 words at 24 months
- Uses 2 –3 word phrases
- Speech is understood more often; sounds used may include k, g, f, t, d, n
- Uses pronouns (I, you, me), plural nouns, and verbs
- Has a vocabulary of 900-1000 words by 36 months

