



Talk Listen & Learn Together

What should my child be doing by preschool?

This is a basic checklist to be used as a guide, remember you know your child best so if you are concerned about their development please give us a call to make an appointment.

By 3-4 years of age

Social Skills

- Playing co-operatively with other children
- Understanding and following complex rules (playing games)
- Independently toileting

Fine Motor

- Can imitate & copy a circle, horizontal and vertical line
- Has a hand dominance (not necessarily consistent)
- Uses scissors to cut through paper, cuts on 5mm thick lines
- Makes smaller more controlled marking on paper
- Attempts to draw pictures of specific items (not necessarily good resemblance)
- Can thread large beads onto a shoelace with ease
- Starting to colour between the lines, and changing colours for different sections (not perfect colouring)

Gross Motor

- Can run, jump, hop, balance on 1 foot and walk on a balance beam
- Can walk up and down stairs with 1 foot on each step (not 2)
- Can imitate actions completed by an adult with accuracy

Receptive Language (Listening and understanding)

- Understand describing words (hard, soft, spikey, sharp, tall, short, long)
- Understand quantity words such as (one, some, all)
- Understand "who" questions (e.g. "who is that?", "who is jumping?")
- Understand "where" questions (e.g. "Where is the cup?")
- Identifies 2-3 colours. Able to point to 2-3 different colours when a selection of different coloured balls are placed in front of them
- Understand negatives (e.g. "Point to the box with no apples")
- Understand place words (front/back", next to", inside/outside)
- Starting to understand "why?" questions

Expressive Language (Speaking)

- Uses 3-5 word sentences when talking (e.g. "the boy is eating apples")
- Has 1000-1500 words in their vocabulary
- Can answer simple questions (e.g. "who is that?")
- Uses little words "is/are", "he/she "correctly
- Beginning to respond correctly to "why?" questions (e.g. "Why do you wash your hands?")
- Uses joining words (e.g. and, then because) "The bird is soft and fluffy"
- Can you 2 things they did in correct sequence (e.g. "I went to the shops then to Nanny's house")
- Starts to tell jokes
- Asks a lot of "how", "why" and "when" questions

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By 4- 5 years of age

Social Skills

- Can sit and attend during group time for 5-8 minutes
- Shows interest in letters and numbers

Fine Motor

- Can draw a circle, square, plus sign and rectangle
- Can pick up and manipulate items within the hand
- Holds a pencil using a 3 or 4 fingers (resembling an adults grasp)
- Has a hand dominance (mostly consistent)
- Uses scissors to cut on lines and around basic shapes
- Attempts to draw pictures of specific items (with reasonable resemblance)
- Can draw a person with resemblance and most features (may miss the body)
- Can thread medium beads onto a string with ease
- Colours between the lines, and changing colours for different sections (not perfect colouring)
- Starts to attempt to write name

Gross Motor

- Can make an X on chest with arms
- Can climb confidently on play equipment
- Balances on 1 foot for 10 seconds

Receptive Language (Listening and understanding)

- Understand between 2000-2600 words
- Understand place words (e.g. first, next, last, above, below , middle)
- Understand difference between day and night
- Beginning to understand comparatives (e.g. "this elephant is big, and this elephant is even bigger")
- Understand difference between day and night
- Starting to understand "when" questions

Expressive Language (Speaking)

- Uses 1500-2000 words
- Uses pronouns such as (his, her)
- Uses joining words (if, so, but)
- Combines five to eight words in a sentence
- Can say days of the week in sequence
- Identify the odd one out from a group of three items (apple, banana, foot)
- Attempts to tell a long story in sequence, but may get lost and forget the main idea.