

Communication and Language Skills Progression - Little Explorers Preschool

Observational checkpoint:

By around 3 years old, can the child shift from one task to another if you get their attention. Using the child's name can help: "Jason, please can you stop now? We're tidying up"

Around the age of 3, can the child show that they understand action words by pointing to the right picture in a book. For example: "Who's jumping?"

Note: watch out for children whose speech is not easily understood by unfamiliar adults. Monitor their progress and consider whether a hearing test might be needed.

Towards their third birthday, can the child use around 300 words? These words include descriptive language. They include words for time (for example, 'now' and 'later'), space (for example, 'over there') and function (for example, they can tell you a sponge is for washing).

Is the child linking up to 5 words together?

Is the child using pronouns ('me', 'him', 'she'), and using plurals and prepositions ('in', 'on', 'under') – these may not always be used correctly to start with.

Can the child follow instructions with three key words like: "Can you wash dolly's face?"

	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Listening, Attention and Understanding	<p>1.1. Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens.</p> <p>1.2. Pay attention to more than one thing at a time, which can be difficult.</p>	<p>2.1. Understand a question or instruction that has two parts, such as: "Get your coat and wait at the door".</p>	<p>3.1. Sing a large repertoire of songs.</p> <p>3.2. Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story.</p> <p>3.3. Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?".</p>
Speaking	<p>1.1. Develop their communication but may continue to have problems with irregular tenses and plurals, such as 'runned' for 'ran', 'swimmed' for 'swam'.</p> <p>1.2. Use longer sentences of four or six words.</p>	<p>2.1. Use a wider range of vocabulary.</p> <p>2.2. Use talk to organise themselves and their play: "Let's go on a bus... you sit there... I'll be the driver".</p> <p>2.3. Start a conversation with an adult or a friend and continue it for many turns.</p>	<p>3.1. Be able to express a point of view to debate when they disagree with an adult or friend, using words as well as actions.</p> <p>3.2. Develop their pronunciation but may have problems saying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some sounds: r, j, th, ch and sh - Multi syllabic such as 'pterodactyl', 'planetarium' or 'hippopotamus'.