

WARNING SIGNS

18 Months to 3 Years

- *Does your child use more gestures than words?*
- *Are you concerned about your child's ability to talk and/or understand?*
- *Does your child show frustration when trying to talk?*
- *Do you have difficulty understanding your child's speech?*
- *Does your child put 2 words together?*

3 to 5 Years

- *Is your child's speech difficult to understand?*
- *Are your child's speech skills not at the level listed in the pamphlet?*

5 Years and Beyond

- *Does your child not use complete sentences?*
- *Does your child stutter?*
- *Does your child not seem to be able to follow directions.*

Taken from www.parentlinkalberta.ca

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact:



*Golden Hills School Division #75
(403)934-5121*

*Strathmore Health Unit
650 Westchester Road
(403) 361-7200*

*Big Country Outreach Program
Drumheller Health Centre
351-9th Street N.W.
(403)820-7260*

*Public Health Unit
Three Hills Health Centre
1504-2nd Street N.
(403)443-5355*

Recommended Websites:

www.parentlinkalberta.ca

www.theroadmap.ca

**Created by the Golden Hills School
Division Early Literacy Team**

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**Golden Hills
School Division #75**



Is Your Child Ready For School?



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE

Speech is the verbal means of communicating.

Language is made up of socially shared rules for communication.



SPEECH SOUNDS

What to Expect

Your 3 year old...

- Uses sounds like *m, p, b, w, t, d, n, h, k, g, f, s*, vowels, *y* as in *yes*, and *ing* as in *sing*.
- Is understood by parents between 75 to 100% of the time.

Your 3 1/2 year old...

- Uses sounds at the beginning of words (*bus* instead of *us*) and at the end of words (*boat* instead of *boa*).
- Uses vowels sounds correctly almost all of the time.

Your 4 year old...

- Uses sounds like *m, p, b, w, t, d, n, h, k, g, f, y, l, s, z*, vowels, and *ing*.
- Is understood by parents 100% of the time.

Your 5 year old...

- Says most sounds correctly except for maybe *r, v, ch*, and *th*.
- Uses l blends and s blends, such as *blue* and *stop*.
- May say *s, z, sh, ch, or j* with the tongue sticking out (a lisp).
- Is easily understood by siblings, friends, parents, and strangers.

TALKING AND LISTENING

What to Expect

Your 3 year old...

- Says 3 to 4 words together, like *Mommy is at work*.
- Uses more of the little words like *is, a, the*.
- Follows 3-part directions, like *Go to your room, get your socks, and bring them to me*.
- Understands and asks questions, like *Where is your coat?, Who's that?, and What is soap for?*

Your 4 year old...

- Uses sentences that are longer and more complete, such as *"I want to go out and play on the swing."*
- Uses more grammar, like pronouns (*I, you, me, she, he, we*), past tense (*walked*), and some questions words (*what, who, where, why*). There are still some errors.
- Understands most concept words like *colours, shapes, locations (beside, under, etc.), texture (smooth, hard, etc.), time (before, after, etc.)*.



Your 5 year old...

- Uses sentences that can be more than 5 to 6 words long.
- Asks more difficult questions, like *why* and *how*.
- Understands most questions and adult conversation.
- Uses the present and future, and past tenses, like *walks, walked, and will walk*.
- Retells a story by naming the characters and by talking about what happened

Information taken from www.parentlinkalberta.ca

If you have any questions concerning your child's speech and language development, please contact your community health nurse at your local health unit office.