

## Communication Checklist

Some simple Guidelines...

If you suspect your preschool child may have a communicating problem, take a few minutes to complete the following checklist.

By 3 months, does your child: Yes No

- Startle at a sudden sound?
- Turn to where the sound is coming from?
- Make sounds (“oo”, “ahh”, etc.)?
- Look at you with interest when you speak?
- Smile in response to you?

By 6 months, does your child: Yes No

- Make several different sounds?
- Try to get your attention by looking at your face or making sounds?
- Make sounds and smile in response to your expressions and sounds?

By 9 months, does your child: Yes No

- Reach out to be picked up?
- Respond to his/her name?
- Make speech-like sounds (“baba”, “gaga”, etc.)?
- Babble musically when playing alone?
- Turn to look where spoken words are coming from?
- Enjoy being played with, taking turns making sounds back and forth?
- Understands “no”?

By 12 months, does your child: Yes No

- Use a finger to point things out to you?
- Imitate or use gestures like waving bye-bye?
- Make his/her needs known by a combination of sounds and actions?

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1 This information as adapted by staff of RFECY from information found on Durham Preschool Speech and Language Program website <http://grandviewkids.ca/programs/speech-language-pathology>

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- Bring toy to you to show you or play with?
- Enjoy games like peek-a-boo or pat-a-cake and sometimes initiate these games?
- Understand simple phrases like “come here” and “don’t touch”?

By 15 months, does your child: Yes No

- Usually look at you when communicating?
- Repeat phrases you’ve used?
- Seem to be talking in sentences but not using “real words”?
- Say one or two words?
- Understands simple questions and commands, like “go get a diaper” or “where’s the ball”?

By 18 months, does your child: Yes No

- Point, look at you and then at the thing he/she is talking about?
- Use the word “no”?
- Have a vocabulary of 10 words or more?
- Understand and use the names of familiar objects such as “ball”, “bed”, “and car”, “light”?
- Sometimes answer the question “what’s this”?
- Take turns when playing with a partner?
- Use toys for pretend play?

By 2 years, does your child: Yes No

- Point to some body parts?
- Use descriptive words like “hungry”, “big”, “hot”?
- Use two word combinations like “me go” or “more cookie”?
- Ask questions like “what dat”?
- Enjoy listening to simple stories?

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By 3 years, does your child? Yes No

- Follow two-part directions like “go to the kitchen and get your cup”?
- Participate in short conversations?
- Use sentences of three words or more?
- Talk about something that happened in the past?
- Ask “why” questions?
- Do people outside your family circle understand half of what your child says?

By 4 years, does your child? Yes No

- Talk in whole sentences using adult like grammar?
- Tell a story that is easy to follow?
- Ask many questions?
- Answer “who, how, how many” questions?
- Use “I, me, you, he or she” properly?
- Start a conversation and continue it, staying on the same topic?
- Use language to create pretend situations when playing with others?
- Do people outside your family circle understand more than three-quarters of what your child says?

By 5 years, does your child: Yes No

- Explain how an object can be used?
- Answer “when” and “why” questions?
- Talk about past, future, and imaginary events?
- Participate in long detailed conversations?
- Do people outside your family circle understand most of what your child says?

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