

Tips and Hints



If the child uses only a few words in a sentence repeat the sentence and add one or two extra words



If the child makes mistakes in sentences repeat what he said but say it correctly. Don't ask the child to say it again



If the child struggles to understand classroom instructions break them into chunks so they are easier to process



If the child mispronounces a word repeat it back to him (without pointing out that he was wrong) so he hears a good example

Information gathered from
Elklan 'Let's talk with under 5's'

Staffordshire and 
Stoke on Trent Partnership
NHS Trust

If you have concerns about a child and would like to speak to a Speech and Language Therapist you can find us at:

Speech and Language Therapy Services
Stafford Central Clinic
North Walls
Stafford
ST16 3AE

Telephone: 0300 1240109 option 5

Speech and Language Therapy Services
Rising Brook Health Centre
Merry Road
Off John Amery Drive
Stafford
ST17 9LY

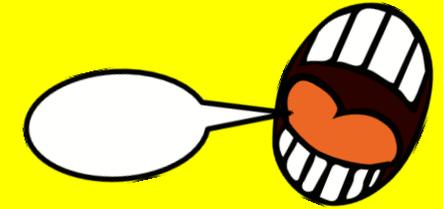
Telephone: 01785 243138 option 4
Fax: 01785 220855

Speech and Language Therapy Services
Trentside Clinic
Stafford Road
Stone
Staffordshire
ST15 0TT

Telephone: 01785 811471 ext. 160
Fax: 01785 811114

Staffordshire and 
Stoke on Trent Partnership
NHS Trust

**Speech and Language Therapy
Services for Children**



*Developmental
Norms for
children starting
school*



What should he understand?



At 3½ years old

- Can understand a simple conversation about something you are doing as you are doing it
- Understands sentences with 3 important words e.g. 'get the big spoon out of the drawer'
- Understands some basic concepts such as, 'long/short', 'hard/soft', 'big/little'

At 4½ years old

- Can understand instructions given to a group of children
- Understands 'why?' and 'how?' type questions
- Begins to understand past and future. They understand when they have to wait a couple of days/a week for something
- Begins to enjoy simple jokes

What words should he be using?

At 3½ years old

- Can use 3 and 4 word sentences
- Uses small grammatical words and endings e.g. 'my brother is kicking the balls'
- Uses a range of nouns, verbs and adjectives

At 4½ years old

- Can hold a simple conversation
- Most sentences are grammatically correct
- Begins to join sentences together by using words like 'and' and 'because'
- Uses basic concepts such as 'hard/soft', 'hot/cold', 'first/last'
- Is able to explain why two items may be linked e.g. 'a cup and a glass go together because you use them to drink from'

What sounds should he be able to say?



At 3½ years old

- Most children can be understood most of the time but may not be using the full range of sounds yet.
- They should be using

p b t d m n w

and

f v s z sh h k g

At 4½ years old

- Most sounds at the beginning and end of words are correct
- May still struggle with 'th' and 'r'
- Starting to use blends like 'sp, st, tr, bl, fl'