



Key Area: Oral Language

Now that I am 8 years old... I should be able to;

Speech and Language Developmental Milestones



Tips for Home

- Try to ensure that your child has a chance to contribute to the conversation at meal times and that they are choosing topics and language appropriate to the company they have.

Encourage your child to:

- Tell you about events that happened during the day at school. If you ask open ended questions such as 'Tell me about your Art lesson today.' you might have a better response than if you ask "Did you have a good day?"
- Ring family members e.g. grandparents, aunts/uncles to tell them about events that have occurred.
- Play games such as 'making up stories' or 'can you guess what I'm thinking of?'. These can be played in the car or if they have a younger sibling, your 8 year old could make up a story to tell them.

Causes for Concern

- Your child is not using complex sentences containing complex vocabulary.
- Your child's speech has articulation errors or they find it hard to pronounce longer words.
- After reading a story or a reader, your child is finding it hard to remember what they have read.
- Your child finds it hard to remember instructions.
- When talking with adults or unfamiliar children, your child finds it difficult to have a conversation, express themselves or to keep up with the pace of conversations.
- Your child appears 'shy' when talking to others and you have to prompt them to engage in conversation or 'talk for them'.
- Your child needs constant assistance when writing.
- Grammatical errors frequently occur in your child's language, e.g. "I gotted this from Grandma"; "She gaved it to me."

Should you have any concerns about your child's development, consult a Speech Pathologist.



Understanding/Listening

- Sit still and listen to a range of classroom activities, such as other children's news, a teacher explaining an activity, a story being read with no visual stimulus e.g. a chapter book.
- Maintain focus and work independently upon school-based tasks.
- Participate actively in class-based discussions, rather than purely passively watching the class interaction.
- Show interest and focus when peers are talking and show empathy for other children's situations and emotions.
- Understand over 25,000 words.
- Show an understanding of the concept of time, number and sequence.
- Recognize when I don't know a word and ask what it means.
- Remember lengthy instructions or information which has been given to me.

Speaking

- 8 year olds should demonstrate adult like oral language skills, speak clearly without errors and have a spoken vocabulary of over 3000 words.
- Speak with no articulation errors.
- Use language which contains very few grammatical errors.
- Provide information when asked about things I have done, what I have learnt and what I would like, without needing prompting along the way (e.g. so then what did you do?).
- Explain complex ideas to others so that they understand what I mean.
- Use sentences which are, on average, about 8+ words long and use words such as 'so' and 'if' to join my phrases e.g. 'I want to play with you this afternoon, so I will ask my Mum and see if it's ok with her' or 'she said we can't play today but if we are really good, we might be able to on Saturday'.
- Use a range of vocabulary specific to different topics and use very little non specific language e.g. thing; that one; the "you know.."

Play and Social Skills

- Make friends and engage in social situations with ease.
- Develop and explain complex games and activities with adults and peers.
- Use language skills to resolve conflict and explain my emotions rather than being physical.
- Infer information from what people say, how they look or what they are doing, without actually being told specifically.
- Enjoy and maintain conversations with adults and peers by choosing appropriate topics for my speaking partners, taking turns with others to say something and realise when I need to stop talking.

PLD's programs that develop the above skills can be viewed by searching the codes: Mc8, Mn68, CCgn1, CCgn2 on www.pld-literacy.org mail@pld-literacy.org Phone: +61 (08) 9227 0846

See our Copyright Terms of Use at <https://pld-literacy.org/copyright>