



Key Area: Oral Language

Now that I am 6 years old... I should be able to:

Speech and Language Developmental Milestones



Tips for Home

- Encourage your child to retell you their school reader without reading the words, but remembering what happened.
- Ask your child to tell you what they did at school.
- Encourage your child to ask you when they don't know the meaning of a word.
- Talk a lot about events that have happened giving detail and emphasise the sequence of events.

Causes for Concern

- Your child uses very short sentences.
- Your child makes regular grammatical errors such as when talking about the things that have already happened eg. I runned...
- Difficulty expressing themselves so that others understand their story.
- Child's speech is difficult to understand.
- Does not sit and happily listen to a story.
- Has trouble following instructions and regularly forgets what they were asked to do.

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



Understanding/Listening

- Listen to lengthy picture books.
- Sit and focus in a class-based mat discussion.
- Follow a series of instructions independently.
- Listen to a story without a visual aid.

Speaking

- 6 year olds should be independent communicators with adult-like grammar and a spoken vocabulary of over 2500 words.
- Speak with no articulation or speech sound errors.
- Use language which contains few or no grammatical errors.
- Ask complex questions to find out information.
- Provide detailed answers to questions about the things they have done.
- Explain reasons for things happening.
- Retell a story without the need for someone to prompt them along the way.
- Independently generate ideas and sentences for assigned written tasks.
- Tell detailed news without assistance.

Play and Social Skills

- Keep themselves occupied alone on a task or activity for 20 - 30 minutes.
- Play fairly in complex games with rules.
- Talk easily with familiar people.
- Be able to maintain a conversation with someone about a topic for at least 5 turns in the conversation.
- Use words to explain emotions such as anger, sadness and anxiety rather than physical actions.

PLD's programs that develop the above skills can be viewed by searching the codes: Mc6, Mn68, CCgn1, CCgn2 on www.pld-literacy.org
mail@pld-literacy.org Phone: +61 (08) 9227 0846

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