

Speech and Language Development

- Early childhood is a time of remarkable development in the area of speech and language
- Children develop through a sequence of steps known as developmental milestones, although they may not proceed through these steps in the same way or at the same time
- Every child's speech and language development is unique
- Watching a child develop new speech and language skills is a source of wonder for parents and teachers



Speech and Language Expectations for Children Entering Kindergarten

- Students have a vocabulary that is expanding daily
- Students are developing word function and meaning
- Students have a sentence length of 5-6 words
- Students communicate using all sentence types, some of which are complex



Speech and Language Expectations for Children Entering Kindergarten

- Students can follow multi-step directions
- Students can understand explanations given for things they can see
- They can understand spatial relations such as “on top”, “behind”, “far” and “near”
- Students can understand “same/different” and common opposites “big/little”



Speech and Language Expectations for Children Entering Kindergarten

- Children frequently initiate conversations and are also getting better at sharing personal experiences
- Children are expressing their feelings, ideas, dreams, wishes and fears
- Children develop speech sounds at different rates
- Students use most all speech sounds correctly with some possible exceptions such as L, R, S, Z, TH, and Blends



Phonological Awareness



- Children at this age are building their knowledge of written language
- They want to know what words in their environment say and can recognize many letters
- By the end of pre-K, many children understand that letters represent the sounds in spoken words and may associate some letters with their sounds

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

A child's speech and language development is greatly influenced by factors in his or her environment and the experiences he or she has.

- Involve your child in real life activities: cooking, shopping lists, greeting cards, etc.
- Provide opportunities for your child to draw pictures to represent real life stories
- Read, read, read! Your child needs to be read to every night!
- Ask questions about the stories



Preparing Your Child For Kindergarten continued

- Make silly rhymes with your child, word games, and sing songs
- Practice recognizing and writing letters in fun ways: magnetic letters, bathtub crayons, sidewalk chalk, write in the sand at the beach, etc.
- Teach your child his/her birthday, address and phone number
- Conversation helps promote vocabulary development
- **HAVE FUN!**



First Week Of Kindergarten

- Good Night's Sleep
- Eat Full Breakfast
- Assure your child you will be there when school is over
- Be on time to drop off/ pick up or bus stop your child
- Have child take a nap when they get home (if possible)

