

BUILDING YOUR CHILD'S LISTENING, TALKING, READING AND WRITING SKILLS

Third Grade to Fifth Grade



**AMERICAN
SPEECH-LANGUAGE-
HEARING
ASSOCIATION**

PURPOSE

This resource was developed to provide information about children's typical development of skills in the areas of listening, talking, reading and writing.

These are general developmental stages.

There are variations in typical development.

If you have concerns about your child's skills, contact a speech-language pathologist.



We expect children to achieve certain skills in each grade. Some children may need help to reach them.

The following checklists show what most children can do by the end of third, fourth and fifth grade in the areas of :

- Listening
- Talking
- Reading
- Writing.



Check- lists for Third Grade to Fifth Grade



THIRD GRADE

Listening Skills

- Listens well in groups.
- Understands what's taught in class.



THIRD GRADE

Talking

- Asks and answers questions.
- Uses words taught in subjects like science, math and social studies.
- Stays on topic and introduces new and related topics.



THIRD GRADE

Talking (cont'd)

- Tells a shorter version of a story correctly.
- Can talk about what is learned in school.
- Knows how to talk in different ways in different places. For example, using a quiet voice in the library and an “outside” voice on the playground.



THIRD GRADE

Reading

- Sounds out new words.
- Uses clues from the story and other words to figure out what new words mean.
- Predicts what will happen next in stories.
- Asks and answers questions about books.



THIRD GRADE

Reading (cont'd)

- Uses what she knows to understand new material.
- Easily reads third grade fiction and non-fiction books.
- Reads words again and makes corrections as needed.
- Reads smoothly without pausing a lot.



THIRD GRADE

Writing Skills

- Plans and edits what he/she writes.
- Uses details in writing.
- Writes stories, letters, simple explanations, and short reports.
- Spells simple words correctly.



THIRD GRADE

Writing Skills (cont'd)

- Corrects most spelling mistakes. Uses a dictionary or online resource when needed.
- Writes clearly in cursive.
- Uses a computer for writing. Searches for letters on the keyboard.



FOURTH GRADE

Listening

- Understands what is taught in class.
- Bases opinions on facts.
- Listens for important details in conversations and stories.



FOURTH GRADE

Talking

- Talks for a variety of reasons in different situations.
- Understands and uses figures of speech like “it’s raining cats and dogs”.
- Has discussions with groups of friends and adults.



FOURTH GRADE

Talking (cont'd)

- Gives correct directions.
- Summarizes information in the right order.
- Uses words and ideas from classes like science, math and social studies.
- Gives an organized speech in front of a group of people.



FOURTH GRADE

Reading Skills

- Reads fourth grade books with ease.
- Follows written directions.
- Takes short notes.
- Uses a dictionary and other reference books or online resources.



FOURTH GRADE

Reading (cont'd)

- Thinks and talks about why the author wrote a book.
- Reads and understands fiction, non-fiction, historical fiction and poetry.
- Tells how types of writing are the same and different.



FOURTH GRADE

Reading (cont'd)

- Uses words he/she knows to guess the meaning of new words. For example, figuring out the meaning of “frigid” by thinking about the word “refrigerator”. Seeing the same letters in both words may help him/her to figure out that frigid means cold.
- Predicts what a character is about to do or how a story will end.
- Tells a shorter version of what has been read including main ideas and details.



FOURTH GRADE

Writing Skills

- Writes good stories and explanations, with many paragraphs on the same topic.
- Plans a beginning, middle and end before writing.
- Writes the main idea of the story.



FOURTH GRADE

Writing (cont'd)

- Edits writing for grammar, punctuation and spelling on paper and on the computer.
- Uses a computer for writing words and sentences. Knows where to find some letters on the keyboard.



FIFTH GRADE

Listening Skills

- Listens and makes conclusions during different subjects like math, science and social studies.
- Understands what's taught in class.



FIFTH GRADE

Talking

- Plans and makes class presentations.
- Makes presentations interesting by using facial expressions, gestures and an engaging voice.
- Participates in discussions in different subjects like math, science and social studies.
- Gives a summary with main points during discussions.
- Tells about information gathered in group activities.



FIFTH GRADE

Reading Skills

- Reads fifth grade level books with ease.
- Uses what he/she knows about words to learn the meaning of new words. For example, if he knows what the word “even” means, he may be able to figure out what “uneven” means.
- Decides which parts of a piece of writing are most important to read.
- Reads many types of writing.



FIFTH GRADE

Reading (cont'd)

- Tells how character and plot develop.
- Reads poetry. Talks about the style and meaning.
- Learns about author styles and use of words.
- Uses facts from newspapers, magazines, Internet articles and reference books to back up opinions.



FIFTH GRADE

Writing Skills

- Writes for many different reasons.
- Chooses words well.
- Uses many different types of sentences.
- Edits and revises to make writing more clear on paper or on a computer.
- Uses a computer to write short reports, stories, blogs and email.



TIPS TO BUILD SKILLS

- Find interesting books, magazines and news stories for your child to read.
- Encourage active listening, like forming opinions and making connections to daily life.
- Discuss links between what's read and heard at school, home and in other daily activities.
- Understand and talk about how to solve problems when reading.



TIPS

- Spot spelling patterns including word beginnings and word endings.
- Talk about new words that he/she hears.
- Write letters, journal entries, blogs and short stories for fun.



IF YOUR CHILD NEEDS A PROFESSIONAL...

If you have concerns about your child's speech and language skills, don't hesitate to contact your child's school or a speech-language pathologist.

The earlier you get help, the better!



A QUALIFIED SPEECH PATHOLOGIST HAS:

- A master's or doctoral degree.
- The Certificate of Clinical Competence from ASHA.
- A state license (where required).
- Ongoing involvement/ participation in continuing education activities.



TO FIND AN ASHA CERTIFIED SLP

Go to www.asha.org/findpro/ or call your local school district.

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