

School-Age Language Checklist

Kindergarten–First Grade

Kindergarten

By the end of kindergarten your student should be able to do the following:

Listening

- Follow 1–2 simple directions in a sequence
- Listen to and understand age-appropriate stories read aloud
- Follow a simple conversation

Speaking

- Be understood by most people
- Answer simple “yes/no” questions
- Answer open-ended questions (e.g., “What did you have for lunch today?”)
- Retell a story or talk about an event
- Participate appropriately in conversations
- Show interest in and start conversations

First Grade

By the end of first grade your student should be able to do the following:

Listening

- Follow 3–4 oral directions in a sequence
- Understand direction words (e.g., location, space, and time words)
- Correctly answer questions about a grade-level story

Speaking

- Be easily understood
- Answer more complex “yes/no” questions
- Ask and answer “wh” questions (e.g., *who, what, where, when, why*)
- Use increasingly complex sentence structures
- Clarify and explain words and ideas
- Give directions with 3–4 steps
- Use oral language to inform, to persuade, and to entertain
- Stay on topic, take turns, and use appropriate eye contact during conversation
- Open and close conversation appropriately

School-Age Language Checklist

Second–Third Grade

Second Grade

By the end of second grade your student should be able to do the following:

Listening

- Follow 3–4 oral directions in a sequence
- Understand direction words (e.g., location, space, and time words)
- Correctly answer questions about a grade-level story

Speaking

- Be easily understood
- Answer more complex “yes/no” questions
- Ask and answer “wh” questions (e.g., *who, what, where, when, why*)
- Use increasingly complex sentence structures
- Clarify and explain words and ideas
- Give directions with 3–4 steps
- Use oral language to inform, to persuade, and to entertain
- Stay on topic, take turns, and use appropriate eye contact during conversation
- Open and close conversation appropriately

Third Grade

By the end of third grade your student should be able to do the following:

Listening

- Listen attentively in group situations
- Understand grade-level material

Speaking

- Speak clearly with an appropriate voice
- Ask and respond to questions
- Participate in conversations and group discussions
- Use subject-related vocabulary
- Stay on topic, use appropriate eye contact, and take turns in conversation
- Summarize a story accurately
- Explain what has been learned