Communication Development Milestones

American Speech—Language Hearing Association

	Listening	Speaking	Articulation
Kindergarten (ages 5-6)	• Follow 1–2 simple directions in a row. • Follow a simple conversation.	• Answer simple yes/no questions. • Answer simple WH- questions • Retell a simple story	Should be able to produce the following sounds: /p, m, h, w, b, n, k, g, d, t, f, v, y/ and /s/ blends (/st, sm, sp, etc.)
First Grade (ages 6-7)	• Remember what they hear. • Follow two- to three-step directions in a row.	• Answer harder yes/no questions. • Retell complex stories. • Use complete sentences. • Use most parts of speech, or grammar, correctly. • Ask and answer WH- questions. • Stay on topic and take turns in conversation.	Should be able to produce the following sounds: "sh", "ch", "j", "th" (thumb), "th" (that)
Second Grade (ages 7-8)	• Follow 3–4 directions in a row. • Understand direction words, like *here, there, over, next to, before,* or *later*. • Answers questions about a second grade-level story.	• Use more complex sentences. • Explain words and ideas. • Give directions with 3–4 steps. • Use words to inform, persuade, and entertain. • Keep eye contact during conversations. • Start and end conversations.	Should be able to produce the following sounds: "ng", "zh" (mea_s_ure) /r, s, z/
Third Grade (ages 8-9)	• Pay attention in groups. • Understand grade-level information.	• Use words related to school subjects. • Summarize a story. • Explain what she learned in school.	
Fourth Grade (ages 9-10)	• Listen to and understand information. • Form opinions based on what she hears. • Listen for specific reasons, such as to learn, enjoy, or convince.	• Use words correctly in conversation. • Use language for many reasons, like asking questions, arguing, and joking. • Understand some figurative language. • Summarize ideas in his own words. • Organize information so it is clear.	
Fifth Grade (ages 10-11)	• Listen and draw conclusions in different classes.	• Make planned speeches. She should know her audience and include information for that group. • Deliver a speech. He should keep eye contact and use gestures and a loud voice. • Take part in class discussions. • Summarize main points. • Report about information from group activities.	