

10 Indications that a Student Should be Assessed for a Speech or Language Disorder

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A student may need to be referred for a speech-language evaluation with a speech-language pathologist if they are not following typical speech and language development.

A 5 Year Old Child Should Be Able to Perform the Below Milestones or They May Need to be Referred:

1. Says all early consonants and vowels accurately (p, b, t, d, k, g, m, n, w, y, h and all vowels).
2. Produces later developing sounds at a 50-70% accuracy level.
3. Produces 2-5 word sentences.
4. Understands and answers basic Wh- questions (what, where, when, who, why).
5. Follows 1 to 2 step directions (e.g. write your name on the top of your paper and then give it to your teacher).
6. Understands and can sequence simple narratives (stories or accounts).
7. Understands and uses a 3000-5000 word vocabulary.
8. Uses language to accomplish a variety of communicative purposes (commenting, requesting, questioning, clarifying, rejecting etc.).

Children with the following conditions have an increased likelihood of having speech-language disorders:

9. Sensory problems such as hearing loss, low vision, and tactile sensitivity.
10. Oral motor weakness and/or speech motor coordination problems.

You can reveal many of these milestones by talking to children about daily events.

4 Ways to Get the Conversation Started:

1. Ask them to count to 10.
2. Ask them to say the days of the week.
3. Ask them to tell you about their family.
4. Ask what their favorite activities are.

Source: An Advanced Review of Speech-Language Pathology: Preparation for PRAXIS And Comprehensive Examination. Celeste Roseberry-McKibbin and M. N. Hegde, Pro ed; 2 edition (October 2006), p. 131-140.