5 to 7 Years: What to Expect

Speech and language milestones for this age, plus the signs that are worth a call to a speech-language pathologist.



AGE

5–7 years

ASHA's milestones stop at 5 years. This band draws on the consonant acquisition literature and general school-age expectations instead.

What to expect

- Produces every consonant correctly, including r, vocalic r and th
- Uses complex sentences with conjunctions - because, so, but, if
- Tells organized stories with a clear beginning, middle and end
- Explains how and why things happen
- Follows multi-step classroom directions
- Repairs communication breakdowns - "no, I meant..."
- Adjusts how they talk for different listeners and settings
- Reads and writes simple text

Worth a Conversation

- ! Any sound errors remaining after age 7
- ! Difficulty telling or following stories
- ! Trouble finding words in conversation
- ! Struggles with rhyming, letter sounds or early reading

You never need a referral to ask a speech-language pathologist for an evaluation, and you never need to wait and see. If you are wondering whether to call, that is reason enough.

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