

# Use of Language Toolkit

Developed by:  
NHS Paediatric Speech and Language  
Therapy Service, Bedfordshire and Luton



SPA Number: 01234 310163 / 310712

Email: [ccs.beds.childrens.slt.admin@nhs.net](mailto:ccs.beds.childrens.slt.admin@nhs.net)

Web: [www.childspeechbedfordshire.nhs.uk](http://www.childspeechbedfordshire.nhs.uk)



# Use of Language: Screening Tool

## Assessing Use Of Language

As children's language develops they use a wider range of vocabulary and formulate longer and more complex sentences. This screener is designed to look at factors such as the number and type of words the child uses, sentence length and use of language in day to day contexts.

### Things to think about

- Aim to make observations in the child's natural environment, following their interests and play.
- Carry out observations of the child with peers and with adults.
- If necessary set up a play situation using a child's interests such as teaset play or dinosaur play in order to make further observations.
- You should gather additional information from parents.
- You can build up this profile over a number of observations of play/interactions.
- Consider the impact of background noise.
- Use the knowledge of all staff members working with the child to inform your assessment.

### What next?

Following your use of the Screening Tool you may have identified areas for concern. Where areas of difficulty have been identified you should refer to section 3 of the Toolkit in order to set outcomes and plan strategies to support the child. These should be documented using the SEND Plan and progress can be tracked accordingly.

Provide feedback to parents on the child's strengths and areas for development.

# Use of Language Assessment

Age	Descriptor	Achieved
18 months - 2 years	By 2 years child should be using 50 words	Y/N
	Using naming words (nouns) for range of categories e.g. 'animal names' 'body parts' 'vehicles'	Y/N/Sometimes
	Using doing words (verbs) e.g. 'running' 'drinking' eating'	Y/N/Sometimes
	Using describing words (adjectives) e.g. 'hot' 'soft' 'fast'	Y/N/Sometimes
2-3 years	Using a large range of vocabulary including nouns, verbs and adjectives.	Y/N/Sometimes
	At 2 years using two words together eg. More juice, Teddy's nose	Y/N/Sometimes
	At 3 years using 3-5 words together eg. Mummy, more juice, Teddy's soft nose	Y/N/Sometimes
3-4 years	Using sentences of 3-5+ words together	Y/N/Sometimes
	Is using more than one sentence at a time	Y/N/Sometimes
	Beginning to retell a story/event	Y/N/Sometimes
	Beginning to use language to express ideas and feelings	Y/N/Sometimes
	Beginning to use language to ask questions	Y/N/Sometimes
	Beginning to use language to ask for clarification/ help	Y/N/Sometimes
	Beginning to talk about past and future events	Y/N/Sometimes
Uses regular "ed" endings and may use these for irregular verbs too eg. catched	Y/N/Sometimes	
4-5 years	Using sentences of 3-5+ words together	Y/N
	Is using more than one sentence at a time	Y/N
	Able to retell a story/event	Y/N
	Able to use language to express ideas and feelings	Y/N
	Able to use language to ask questions	Y/N
	Able to use language to ask for clarification/ help	Y/N
	Able to talk about past and future events	Y/N
	Talks about past present and future using regular endings such as walked, walking (Grammatical errors may persist in typical development eg. Sheeps/goed)	Y/N
Able to use pronouns e.g. he, his, him	Y/N	