

## What Should My Child Be Able to Do?

The following developmental milestone charts will help provide a guideline to keep track of your child's development and enable you to know if he/she needs speech-language therapy intervention.

### Language and Play Milestones

#### 2 – 3 years

- Follows 2-step instructions
- Understands concepts: big/small, in/on
- Listens to a story for 5 – 10 minutes
- Responds to "what" and "where" questions
- Speaks short sentences (3 – 5 words)
- Talks about what is happening now, but not in the past or future
- Comforts people in distress
- Engages in pretend play

#### SEEK HELP IF YOUR CHILD

- Does not repeat any words
- Does not show affection
- Does not engage in pretend play



#### 3 – 4 years

- Understands simple "what", "where", "who" questions
- Understands concepts: in front of/under, same/different
- Tells a simple story
- Asks many questions (e.g. he/she, I, you)
- Uses pronouns (e.g. I, me, you, he/she), word endings (e.g. can't, jumped, Ethan's bag), action words (e.g. hop, run, throw)
- Labels simple feelings (e.g. happy, sad)
- Greets familiar people spontaneously
- Engages in simple turn-taking games
- Has a favourite friend

#### SEEK HELP IF YOUR CHILD

- Does not display earlier milestones
- Does not understand simple questions
- Does not label feelings
- Does not greet familiar people



#### 4 – 5 years

- Follows 3-step instructions
- Understands concepts: beside/between, first/last
- Uses complete sentences that are grammatically correct
- Uses descriptive words (e.g. dirty, fast, quiet)
- Uses irregular past tense (e.g. ate, gave, saw)
- Talks about feelings, expresses anger verbally
- Answers simple questions using "why"
- Selects own friends and plays in groups of 2 – 5
- Engages in imaginative play
- Follows classroom rules

#### SEEK HELP IF YOUR CHILD

- Does not display earlier milestones
- Is unable to define simple words
- Does not use words to express feelings
- Does not greet familiar people
- Does not follow classroom routines



### Speech Milestones

#### Your child should be able to be understood:

2 years: 50% of child's speech

3 years: 75% of child's speech

4 years: 100% of child's speech

#### Your child should develop the following sounds:

0 – 3 years: b, d, g, h, k, m, n, p, t, w

3½ – 4 ½ years: f, j, l, s, z, ch, sh

5 – 8½ years: r, v, th, pl, sw, tr (blends)

#### SEEK HELP IF YOUR CHILD

- Does not display earlier milestones
- Has very limited sounds
- Has unintelligible speech
- Is not easily understood by others
- Child is frustrated as he/she is not being understood by others

