

Communicating

THROUGH THE YEARS

MILESTONE MARKERS

Four to Five Years

HEARING AND UNDERSTANDING

- Understands words for order, like first, next, and last.
- Understands words for time, like yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
- Follows longer directions, like "Put your pajamas on, brush your teeth, and then pick out a book."
- Follows classroom directions, like "Draw a circle on your paper around something you eat."
- Hears and understands most of what she hears at home and in school.

TALKING

- Says all speech sounds in words. May make mistakes on sounds that are harder to say, like l, s, r, v, z, ch, sh, and th.
- Responds to "What did you say?"
- Talks without repeating sounds or words most of the time.
- Names letters and numbers.
- Uses sentences that have more than 1 action word, like jump, play, and get. May make some mistakes, like "Zach gots 2 video games, but I got one."
- Tells a short story.
- Keeps a conversation going.
- Talks in different ways, depending on the listener and place. Your child may use short sentences with younger children. He may talk louder outside than inside.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

- Talk about where things are in space, using words like first and last or right and left. Talk about opposites, like up and down or big and little.
- Give your child clues, and have him guess the object.
- Talk about categories, like fruits, furniture, and shapes. Sort items into categories. Have your child tell you which item does not belong. Talk about why it doesn't belong.
- Let your child tell you how to do something.
- Pay attention when your child speaks. Respond, praise, and encourage him when he talks. Get his attention before you speak. Pause after speaking, and let him respond to what you said.
- Keep teaching your child new words. Define words, and help your child understand them. For example, say, "This vehicle is on the highway. It is a car. A bus is another kind of vehicle. So are a train and an airplane."
- Teach your child to ask for help when she does not understand what a word means.

DuBard School for Language Disorders can serve as a resource to help ensure you are aware of services available for your child. DuBard School's full-time enrollment program serves children from three to 13 years of age.

Information provided by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.