



Primary School Speaking & Listening Checklist

This checklist is designed to help you identify when to seek the help of a Speech Pathologist for a primary school student.

Go to the section for the student's year and tick the box for each skill the student has. If any box is unticked, we recommend you seek the advice of a Speech Pathologist. A thorough assessment may be recommended to provide detailed information to support their social and educational progress.

If a student has an unusual sounding voice or a stutter, a Speech Pathologist should be consulted as soon as possible.

Year 1

Does the student?

- Follow 2-3 step instructions
- Listen to and follow a story book
- Tell and re-tell information and stories in order
- Stay on topic and take turns in a conversation
- Participate appropriately in classroom routine (children with 'challenging behaviour' often have a communication difficulty)
- Say all sounds correctly, except for 'th'



Year 2

Does the student?

- Follow 3-4 step oral directions
- Ask and answer harder 'wh' questions
- Clarify and explain words and ideas
- Use oral language to inform, persuade and entertain
- Use complex sentence structures containing words such as: if, until, unless
- Predict and describe what might happen next in a year-level story
- Start and finish conversations appropriately
- Pronounce all sounds correctly



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Year 3

Does the student?

- Listen attentively and follow instructions in group activities
- Understand year-level material
- Participate in group discussions
- Retain and use subject-specific vocabulary
- Summarise a story accurately
- Explain what they have learned
- Use correct grammar consistently
- Sometimes use figurative language, e.g., "Don't let the cat out of the bag"
- Sometimes use synonyms and word categories to explain word meanings
- Understand words with multiple meanings
- Pronounce all sounds correctly



Year 4

Does the student?

- Use correct grammar all the time, including exceptions
- Understand and use passive sentences
- Understand and answer both factual and inferential questions
- Predict and make inferences e.g. what will happen if?
- Use a greater variety of words and sentences structures in conversation and writing
- Understand and tell jokes based on sound similarities (e.g. "What kind of show do cows like to watch?" "Moo-sicals")
- Understand year-level content material



Year 5

Does the student?

- Use language effectively for a variety of purposes (persuading, describing, explaining, defending)
- Listen to and understand information presented by other students
- Use more complex vocabulary and sentence structures in writing
- Understand and tell jokes and riddles
- Understand and use sarcasm
- Listen for a specific purpose
- Understand jokes based on word ambiguity, e.g. "Last night I shot an elephant in my pyjamas. How he got in my pyjamas I'll never know"
- Understand most common idioms e.g. "Break a leg"



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