



Speech and Language of the 5-Year-Old

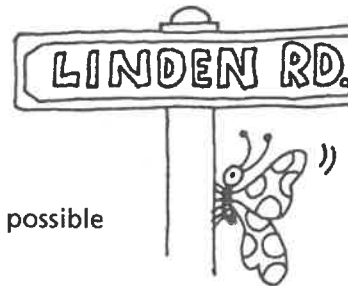
At age 5 years, your child . . .



defines objects by their use ("you eat with a fork") and can tell what objects are made of

knows words for spatial relations such as *on top*, *behind*, *far*, *near*, *over*, and *under*

knows his or her address



identifies a penny, nickel, and dime

uses sentences of 5 to 6 words



uses all speech sounds correctly with the possible exceptions of *v*, *l*, *th*, *ch*, *j*, *s*, *z*, *zh* (as in *measure*), and *r*



knows common opposites such as *big* and *little* and *hard* and *soft*

understands the words *same* and *different*

counts 10 objects



tells a story with a simple plot (problem, action to solve problem, and outcome)

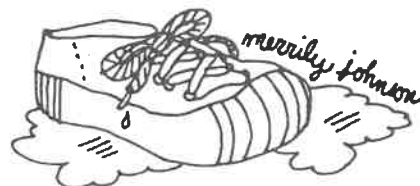
uses future, present, and past tenses

stays with one activity for 12 to 13 minutes

asks questions to get information

distinguishes own but not other people's left and right hands

uses all types of sentences, some of which will be complex (for example, "I can go in the house after I take off my muddy shoes.")



ou can stimulate your 5-year-old child's speech and language if you . . .

- listen to your child when he or she talks to you
- encourage your child to use language to express feelings, ideas, dreams, wishes, and fears
- comment on what you did or how you think your child feels; this will stimulate more speech than a direct question
- allow your child to create new, free designs with crayons, markers, or pencils
- ask your child to tell you about his or her experiences at school, a friend's home, or the park
- allow your child opportunities to learn songs, rhymes, or verses from memory
- continue to read longer stories
- read signs to your child when you're out on drives or walks
- talk with your child as you would an adult in most instances
- remember that your child will still understand more than he or she will be able to say



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