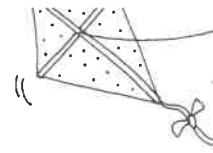




Speech and Language of the 6-Year-Old



At age 6 years, your child . . .

- has correct articulation of most speech sounds
- may still have difficulties with clusters such as *sp* or *tr*
- uses adult-like grammar in sentences and conversations
- understands the meanings of most sentences
- names days of week in order and counts to 30
- predicts the next sequence of events and tells a 4- to 5-part story
- tells month and day of birthday, name, and address
- distinguishes left and right
- knows most opposites and the meaning of *through*, *away*,
toward, and *from*
- knows the meaning of *today*, *yesterday*, and *tomorrow*
- asks lots of "why," "what," and "how" questions
- is beginning to read simple words like *cat*, *the*, and *ball*
- is starting to recognize that individual letters in words represent
different sounds that form words when put together
(for example, c-a-t for "cat")





you can stimulate your 6-year-old child's speech and language if you . . .

- spend quiet time each day when only the two of you carry on a conversation
- have your child read simple and familiar books to you and read new and more advanced books to him or her
- help your child write his or her own story-picture book
- have your child act out or make up stories or plays
- play games with your child that involve reasoning and conversation
- have your child run errands or do chores for you that involve remembering a list of instructions
- allow your child to cook using a child's cookbook with simple step-by-step instructions
- let your child watch special children's videos or television shows and then have him or her retell the story
- have your child contribute to family discussions that involve decision making
- define new words and concepts to your child
- tell a short story about your day and then ask your child to do the same
- have your child "write" new words and sentences each day with refrigerator magnet letters or a marker on a dry-erase board



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