Typical Language Development – 5 Years

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| **Listening** | **Speaking** |
| * Follow one to two simple directions in a sequence * Listen to and understand age-appropriate stories read aloud * Follow a simple conversation | * Be understood by most people * Answer simple ‘yes/no’ questions * Answer open-ended questions (e.g. ‘What did you have for lunch today?’) * Retell a story or talk about an event * Participate appropriately in conversations * Show interest in and start conversations |
| **Reading** | **Writing** |
| * Know how a book works (e.g. read from left to right and top to bottom in English) * Understand that spoken words are made up of sounds * Identify words that rhyme (e.g. ‘cat’ and ‘hat’) * Compare and match words based on their sounds * Understand that letters represent speech sounds and match sounds to letters * Identify upper case and lower case letters * Recognise some words by sight * ‘Read’ a few picture books from memory | * Print own first name and last name * Draw a picture that tells a story and label and write about the picture * Write upper case and lower case letters (may not be clearly written) |

Typical Language Development – 6 Years

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| **Listening** | **Speaking** |
| * Remember information * Respond to instructions * Follow two- to three- step directions in a sequence | * Be easily understood * Answer more complex ‘yes/no’ questions * Tell and retell stories and events in a logical order * Express ideas with a variety of complete sentences * Ask and respond to ‘why’ questions (e.g. who, what, where, when, why) * Use most parts of speech (grammar) correctly * Stay on topic and take turns in conversation * Give directions * Start conversations |
| **Reading** | **Writing** |
| * Create rhyming words * Identify all sounds to form words * Match spoken words with print * Know how a book works (e.g. read from left to right and top to bottom in English) * Identify letters, words and sentences * Sound out words when reading * Have a sight vocabulary of 100 common words * Read grade-level material fluently * Understand what is read | * Express ideas through writing * Print clearly * Spell frequently used words correctly * Begin each sentence with capital letters and use ending punctuation * Write a variety of stories, journal entries or letters/notes |

Typical Language Development – 7 Years

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| **Listening** | **Speaking** |
| * Follow three to four oral directions in a sequence * Understand direction words (e.g. location, space and time words) * Correctly answer questions about a grade-level story | * Be easily understood * Answer more complex questions (e.g. who, what, where, when, why) * Use increasingly complex sentence structures * Clarify and explain words and ideas * Give directions with three to four steps * Use oral language to inform, to persuade and to entertain * Stay on topic, take turns, and use appropriate eye contact during conversation * Open and close conversation appropriately |
| **Reading** | **Writing** |
| * Have fully mastered phonics/sounds * Associate speech sounds, syllables, words and phrases with their written forms * Recognise many words by sight * Use meaning clues when reading (e.g. pictures, titles/headings, information in the story) * Reread and self-correct when necessary * Locate information to answer questions * Explain key elements of a story (e.g. main idea, main characters, plot) * Use own experience to predict and justify what will happen in grade-level stories * Read, paraphrase/retell stories, poetry or dramatic text silently and aloud with fluency * Read spontaneously * Identify and use spelling patterns in words when reading | * Write legibly * Use a variety of sentence types in writing essays, poetry or short stories (fiction and non-fiction) * Use basic punctuation and capitalisation appropriately * Organise writing to include beginning, middle and end * Spell frequently used words correctly * Progress from inventive spelling (e.g. spelling by sound) to more accurate spelling |

Typical Language Development – 8 Years

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| **Listening** | **Speaking** |
| * Listen attentively in group situations * Understand grade-level material | * Speak clearly with an appropriate voice * Ask and respond to questions * Participate in conversations and group discussions * Use subject-related vocabulary * Stay on topic, use appropriate eye contact, and take turns in conversation * Summarise a story accurately * Explain what has been learned |
| **Reading** | **Writing** |
| * Demonstrate full mastery of basic phonics * Use word analysis skills when reading * Use clues from language content and structure to help understand what is read * Predict and justify what will happen next in stories and compare and contrast stories * Ask and answer questions regarding reading material * Use acquired information to learn about new topics * Read grade-level books fluently (fiction and non-fiction) * Reread and correct errors when necessary | * Plan, organise, revise and edit * Include details in writing * Write stories, letters, simple explanations and brief reports * Spell simple words correctly, correct most spelling independently and use a dictionary to correct spelling * Write clearly in cursive |

Typical Language Development – 9 Years

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| **Listening** | **Speaking** |
| * Listen to and understand information presented by others * Form opinions based on evidence * Listen for specific purposes | * Use words appropriately in conversation * Use language effectively for a variety of purposes * Understand some figurative language (e.g. ‘the forest stretched across…’) * Participate in group discussions * Give accurate directions to others * Summarise and restate ideas * Organise information for clarity * Use subject area information and vocabulary (e.g. social studies) for learning * Make effective oral presentation |
| **Reading** | **Writing** |
| * Read for specific purposes * Read grade-level books fluently * Use previously learned information to understand new material * Follow written directions and take brief notes * Link information learned to different subjects * Learn meanings of new words through knowledge of word origins, synonyms and multiple meanings * Use reference materials (e.g. a dictionary) * Explain the author’s purpose and writing style * Read and understand a variety of types of literature, including fiction, non-fiction, historical fiction and poetry * Compare and contrast in content areas * Make inferences from texts * Paraphrase content, including the main ideas and details | * Write effective stories and explanations, including several paragraphs about the same topic * Develop a plan for writing, including a beginning, a middle and end * Organise writing to convey a central idea * Edit final copies for grammar, punctuation and spelling |

Typical Language Development – 10 Years +

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| **Listening** | **Speaking** |
| * Listen and draw conclusions in subject area learning activities | * Make planned oral presentations appropriate to the audience * Maintain eye contact and use gestures, facial expressions and appropriate voice during group presentations * Participate in class discussions across subject areas * Summarise main points * Report about information gathered in group activities |
| **Reading** | **Writing** |
| * Read grade-level books fluently * Learn meaning of unfamiliar words through knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes * Prioritise information according to the purpose of reading * Read a variety of literary forms * Describe development of character and plot * Describe characteristics of poetry * Analyse author’s language and style * Use reference materials to support opinions | * Write for a variety of purposes * Use vocabulary effectively * Vary sentence structure * Revise writing for clarity * Edit final copies |