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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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
 |