

Kid Speak

Paediatric Speech Pathology

SOCIAL SKILLS MILESTONES

6 months

- Learn to smile.
- Begin to respond to familiar voices.
- Shows an interest in faces.
- Begins to explore.
- Responds to caregiver interaction with eye contact and vocalisations.
- Participates in simple games like "peek-a-boo".

from 1 year

- Develops simple gestures, like waving, pointing and nodding head.
- Uses different vocalisations to convey emotion.
- Uses eye contact, gesture and vocalisations to request, protest, give, show, point or signal.
- Brings object to caregiver for help.
- Begins to use single words.
- Develops joint attention.

from 2 years

- Begins to play alongside other children (parallel play).
- Starts to take turns in conversations.
- Engages in pretend play with objects.
- Begins to interact and show interest in others.
- Imitates adult behaviours in play.
- Communicates feelings, interests and dislikes.

from 3 years

- Takes turns in play.
- Plays in groups and talks while playing.
- Chooses who to play with.
- Shares toys for short periods.
- Talks about feelings and expresses ideas.
- Practices conversation skills by talking to self.
- Shows frustration if not understood.
- Begins to gain more awareness around use manners.



from 4 years

- Participates in role-play with other children and plays imaginatively (e.g. cooking, dress-ups).
- Begins to negotiate in play and enjoys playing games with simple rules (e.g. hide and seek).
- Asks lots of questions.
- Follows three step directions.
- Invites peers to play.
- Able to introduce topic in conversation and sustain topic for a few turns.
- Understand that other people have different perspectives and emotions.

from 5 years

- Plays simple games and enjoys dramatic play.
- Plays purposefully and constructively, play is well organised.
- Shows interest in group activities.
- Chooses friends to play with.
- Shows more interest in communicating with unfamiliar people.
- Learns to sustain topics in conversation through about a dozen turns.
- Increasingly uses explanation and justifications to get what they want (e.g "I need that", "I want..")

from 6 years

- Enjoys active games and is competitive in play.
- Likes to make up games with their own rules.
- Starts to recognise what is real and what is pretend.
- Seeks to please caregivers and peers and requires affirmation from them.
- Uses repetition to repair a conversation.
- Starts to develop increased control over emotions.

from 7 years

- Develops more mature narrative structures (beginning, end, problem, resolution).
- Able to use indirect requests to get what they desire.
- Engages in co-operative play including making group decisions, assigning roles and playing fairly.
- Likes to participate in rule based activities.
- Asks questions to gain information.

from 8 years

- Learns that others have different perspectives and takes these into consideration.
- Develops allegiance to social group although still has a strong need for adult support
- Communicates thoughts.
- Able to introduce and maintain conversation.