



SPEECH SERVICES SYDNEY & COAST

EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE

WHAT IS EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE?

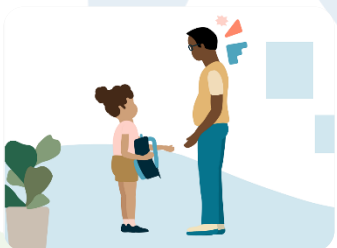
Expressive language, also known as 'speaking skills' refers to the way we **use language to communicate with others, whether it be through speaking, writing, signs, gestures or augmented or alternative communication (AAC)**. It also covers the way we use sounds, words, and sentences to communicate our wants, needs, feelings and thoughts. Expressive language skills **impact your child's ability to answer and ask questions, retell stories, write paragraphs, and engage in conversation.**

Areas of expressive language a speech pathologist may work on include increasing and improving the use of vocabulary, grammar, sentence length and more. Below are some milestones.



In younger children (ages 3 to 5)

- Combing words to make phrases (e.g. go outside play)
- Uses filler words (e.g. is, and)
- Uses some irregular verbs (e.g. drew, slept)
- Uses pronouns (e.g. he, she them)
- Can say name and shape
- Starts to tell joke
- Expresses their emotions
- Labels common objects by use and function
- Simple sentences are complete
- Beginning to develop complex sentences





In older children (ages 6 and above)

- Uses many location prepositions (e.g. on top, above, in between)
- Knows common opposites (e.g. hard/soft)
- Tell stories about past events
- Can name position (e.g. first, second)
- Uses new vocabulary frequently
- Classify categories of words
- Knows synonyms and antonyms
- Complex sentences are complete
- Sentences includes conjunctions (e.g. and, so)
- Uses correct sentence structure

TRY THIS!

- Use visuals and graphic organisers
- Provide models and examples of the correct vocabulary and sentence structure
- Teach using different modalities (e.g. written, tactile (touch), visual, auditory (hear))
- Do activities that involve a sequence of steps to practise using time/sequencing words like 'first', 'next' and 'then'
- Use simple books when reading to talk about the pictures
- Be creative and create fun games!



WHEN TO REFER

If you have concerns about how well your child can speak and write, contact a Speech Pathologist.