



SPEECH SERVICES SYDNEY & COAST

RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE

WHAT IS RECEPTIVE LANGUAGE?

Receptive language, also known as 'listening skills' refers to the way we **understand what we hear and read**. Receptive language skills **impact your child's ability to follow along in the classroom and make sense of what they are learning**.

Areas of receptive language a speech pathologist may work on include following directions, understanding questions, concepts, and vocabulary, reading comprehension, figurative language and more. Below are some milestones.



In younger children (ages 3 to 5)

- Understands describing words (e.g. big, short, hard, soft)
- Understands quantity words (e.g. one, some, all)
- Understands who, what and where questions
- Knows positions (e.g. in, on top, next to, below)
- Identifies simple shapes and colours
- Listens to stories with interest
- Can tell what is happening in a picture
- Follows one and two step instructions



In older children (ages 6 and above)

- Understands 'same' and 'different'
- Understands negative sentences (e.g. point to the girl with no shoes)
- Follows the meaning of conversations
- Follows multi step directions
- Listens to and understands stories
- Can make inferences and interpretations about events, characters, and ideas
- Produces oral or written summaries
- Asks and responds to questions to aid comprehension



TRY THIS!

- Use visuals
- Verbal repetition
- Turning off electronics to help your child think clearly without interruptions
- Provide lots of examples and models (e.g. written example) to help your child remember or understand
- Practice recalling together by using sequencing words like 'first', 'next' and 'then'
- Be creative and create fun games!



WHEN TO REFER

If you have concerns about how well your child can understand speech and texts, contact a Speech Pathologist.