



# Language Development

Milestones for kids who are 4 years old:

- speaks clearly
- uses complete sentences
- asks and answers “wh” questions
- follows more complex directions
- uses pronouns correctly
- identifies some letters and numbers
- gets the idea of big, bigger, biggest
- can retell a familiar favorite story

## What’s important at this age?

Four year olds love to pretend play. This gives you huge opportunities to work on speech and language skills.

Pretend play lets you practice:

- **Sequencing:** “My guy is soooo hungry! He wants a sandwich, what does he need to do *first* to make a sandwich?”
- **Problem Solving:** “Oh no!!! Batman totally fell out of his car! I think he broke his leg, what could he do to fix it?”
- **Verb tenses:** “The princess *jumped* super high, now the witch is *jumping* even higher!”
- **“wh”-questions:** “Ok Little Red Ridinghood, *where* are you going now? Oh, *why* are you going to Grandma’s house? *What’s* in your basket?”
- **Comparatives:** “Wow! You made the *biggest, tallest* snowman out of your playdough. See mine is *big*, but yours is even *bigger!*”

Don’t stress about hitting all of these targets during pretend play, just talk! Use lots of describing words and your child will learn new things without even trying. Pretend play is magical, let loose, have fun, and enjoy the awesomeness that ensues.