

Milestones for kids who are 5 years old:

- speaks clearly
- uses mostly grammatically correct sentences
- asks and answers “wh” questions
- follows complex directions
- talks about yesterday and today
- can match letters to their sounds
- understands basic opposites
- enjoys rhyming games and word families
- asks the meaning of new words

Language Development

What’s important at this age?

Most parents big concerns at this age center around kindergarten readiness. Some of the best ways to prepare your child for kindergarten also help them refine their social language and literacy skills. Help your child talk with other adults and children. Teach your child how to take turns (board games and dinner time conversations are great for this skill).

One of the best things you can do with your child at this age is help her keep trying or try again when something doesn’t work the first time. “You are both still learning. Sometimes it’s hard to play together, and you can try again!”

Continue reading together, now you can start pointing out when words rhyme, or begin with the same sound. Your child will start to point out familiar words and might sound some things out.

As kindergarten approaches begin reading books about going to school (check your local library). Visit your child’s school, let her check out her classroom, meet her teacher, and talk about the kindergarten routine. If possible now is a great time to set up some playdates with children who will be in her class.