
PRAGMATIC (SOCIAL) LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT 3-6 YEARS

3-4 YEARS

- Follows two-step related directions without cues
- Takes turns and plays cooperatively
- Relates personal experiences through language
- Separates from primary caregiver easily
- Frequently practices conversation skills by talking to self
- Begins using dramatic play and acting out whole scenes
- Shows frustration if not understood
- Expresses ideas and feelings

4-5 YEARS

- Follows three-step directions without cues
- Uses direct requests with justification (i.e. "Stop, that hurt!")
- Uses words to invite others to play
- Uses language to resolve issues with peers
- Plays competitive games
- Has good control of the elements of conversation
- Speaks of imaginary conditions (i.e. "What if...")

5-6 YEARS

- Begins to use word plays
- Uses threat and promises
- Asks meanings of words
- Likes to complete projects
- Makes purchases at stores
- Asks questions to gain information
- Chooses own friends
- Take more care in communicating with unfamiliar people
- Engages in cooperative play- making group decisions, assigning roles, playing fairly, etc.
- Announces topic shifts

See LinguSystems Communication Milestones for references.