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4 YEAR SPEECH AND LANGUAGE CHECKLIST

Cognitive Skills

- Comprehends opposite concepts
- Identifies crosses, triangle, circles and squares
- Speaks of imaginary conditions with “pretend” or “ I hope”
- Stays with one activity for 11-12 minutes
- Helps plan activities
- Names primary colors on request
- Metalinguistic awareness: child is able to think about and comment on what he and others say

Pragmatic (Social Language) Skills

- Understands the conventions of simple conversations (turn taking, topic maintenance)
- Rarely repeats or hesitates
- Speaks without avoidance or embarrassment
- Modifies speech to age of listener
- Talks on the telephone

Semantic Skills

- Understands time concepts such as “early in the morning”, “next month”, “lunchtime”
- Knows concepts related to spatial arrangements such as “in front of”, “behind”, “far”
- Uses many more words than you can count (approximately 1500)

Phonetic (Sound Production) Skills

- Expresses him or herself using speech which is understood by all
- Sounds such as “s”, “z”, “sh” and “j” may be distorted and “w” may be used for “r”

Syntactic (Grammar/Syntax) Skills

- Comprehends complex sentences
- Delivers a message
- Follow 3 step directions even though objects are not present
- Uses five and six word sentences
- Asks “how”, “where”, “when” and “why” questions
- Answers “what if” questions
- Uses compound sentences combined by “and”, “but”, “or”, “so” and “because” (“I’m four now, but John is only three”)
- Uses past and present progressive tenses accurately (“I ate”, “I am going to...”)