

To be or not to be.....

“Is your child’s grammar up to scratch?”

Over the Christmas holiday break you have probably had more of an opportunity to sit down and have extended conversations with your child.

Through talking to your child and having the time to really listen to his responses you may have become aware that he was not using correct grammar in his sentences. These immature grammatical patterns may be impacting on his ability to interact with other children and adults as they may be having difficulty understanding what he is saying. This confusion is not due to poor pronunciation of sounds but instead incorrect grammar.

Using incorrect grammar in sentences can also often lead people to assume that your child is younger than what they are and consequently treating them or talking to them as they would to a younger child. Speech pathology treatment can help your child reach an age-appropriate level.

Please use the checklist below to see if your child’s grammar is up to the level expected for their age.

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| By 4 years of age | Does your child have an extensive vocabulary = 200words? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Is your child speaking in 4 to 6 word sentences? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Does your child understand complex sentences (eg. ‘When he was away he had a good time’, ‘He wanted to come but he was sick’) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Is your child beginning to learn from listening (eg. ‘Stay away, it’s dangerous’) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Is your child learning to sing songs and longer nursery rhymes? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Can your child follow more complex directions (eg. ‘Find your teddy, and put it to bed’) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Does your child understand category names and complex vocabulary? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| By 5 years of age | Can your child talk about what has happened and what might happen? (eg ‘It rained yesterday – it might rain tomorrow’) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Can your child say sentences using correct grammar with only a few errors? (eg ‘I caught the ball when you ‘threwed’ it to me’) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Can your child speak in complex sentences using words like ‘because’, ‘if’, ‘so’, ‘while’, ‘but’, ‘then’, ‘when’? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Can your child carry out 3-4 step instructions (eg ‘Get your lunchbox, put it in your bag and wait at the door’)? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Can your child understand ‘before’ and ‘after’ and other time sequences? (eg morning, afternoon, day, night, tomorrow, yesterday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Can your child understand specific describing words? (eg | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |

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| | curly, tall, light) | |
| | Can your child understand 'why' questions – responding with a reason? (eg 'Why did you eat all the biscuits?' – 'Because I was hungry') | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Does your child understand adult language? (eg 'The girl was pushed over by the boy') | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | | |
| By 6 years of age | Does your child have number concepts up to 7 ? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Can your child tell a connected story about a picture, seeing relationships between objects and happenings? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | | |
| By 7 years of age | Does your child handle opposite analogies easily? (e.g. girl-boy, short-long, blunt-sharp, sweet-sour etc) | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Does your child understand such terms as: alike, different, beginning, end, etc? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Can your child tell the time to the quarter hour? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | Can your child engage in simple reading and write or print many words? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |