

Use the checklist below to evaluate some common developmental expectations of three-, four-, five- and six-year-old language. (Adapted from Allen, K. E., & Marotz, L. R. [2003]. *Developmental profiles: Pre-birth through twelve*. [4th ed.] Clifton Park, NY: Delmar Learning.)

Age/Developmental Characteristic	Yes	No	Sometimes/Comments
<p><b>By Three Years:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Responds to “Put _____ in the box” and “Take the _____ out of the box.”</li> <li>■ Selects correct item upon request: big versus little; long versus short.</li> <li>■ Identifies objects by use: “What do you wear on your feet?”</li> <li>■ Asks questions.</li> <li>■ Tells about something with functional phrases that carry meaning: “Daddy go airplane” and “Me hungry now.”</li> </ul>			
<p><b>By Four Years:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Responds appropriately to “Put it beside” and “Put it under.”</li> <li>■ Responds to two-step directions: “Give me the car and put the block on the floor.”</li> <li>■ Responds by selecting the correct object—for example, hard versus soft, blue versus red, and so on.</li> <li>■ Answers “if,” “what,” and “when” questions.</li> <li>■ Answers questions about function: “What are books for?”</li> </ul>			
<p><b>By Five Years:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Responds to simple three-step directions: “Give me the pencil, put the book on the table, and hold the comb in your hand.”</li> <li>■ Responds correctly when asked to select a penny, nickel, and dime.</li> <li>■ Asks “how” questions.</li> <li>■ Responds verbally to “Hi” and “How are you?”</li> <li>■ Tells about events using past and future tenses.</li> <li>■ Uses conjunctions to string words and phrases together—for example, “I saw a bear, a zebra, and a giraffe at the zoo.”</li> </ul>			
<p><b>By Six Years:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Uses all grammatical structures: pronouns, plurals, verb tense, and conjunctions.</li> <li>■ Uses complex sentences and carries on conversations.</li> </ul>			