



Milestones Matter

Your Child's Communication: FIFTH GRADE

By the end of fifth grade, your child should be able to do the following tasks in each area:

Listening

- Listen and make conclusions during different subjects like math, science and social studies
- Understand what's taught in class

Speaking

- Make planned speeches; she should know her audience and include information for that group
- Deliver a speech; keep eye contact and use gestures and a loud voice
- Take part in class discussions
- Summarize main points
- Report about information from group activities

Reading

- Read grade-level books smoothly and with few mistakes
- Learn meanings of new words by looking at word origins, synonyms and other meanings
- Decide what information is important when reading
- Read different types of text, like fiction, nonfiction and poetry
- Describe how a character and a plot develop
- Talk about poetry and what poems might mean
- Study an author's language and style
- Use reference materials to support opinions

Writing

- Write for a variety of reasons
- Use many different words when writing
- Vary sentence structure
- Revise writing to make it clearer
- Edit final copies

Here are some things you can do to help your child learn to listen, speak, read and write.

- Find interesting books, magazines and news stories for your child to read
- Encourage active listening, like forming opinions and making connections to daily life
- Discuss links between what is read and heard at school, at home and in other daily activities
- Help your child spot spelling patterns, including word beginnings and word endings
- Talk about new words that your child hears
- Get your child to write letters, journal entries, blogs and short stories for fun

This information was adapted with permission from information provided by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.
<https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/communicationdevelopment.htm>

If you have any concerns about your child's development, you can talk with your pediatrician, seek a clinical speech-language evaluation or contact your child's school district. You can also sign up for a free online hearing and language screening with a speech-language pathologist from Boys Town National Research Hospital at <http://bit.ly/hearing-language-screening> or by calling (531) 355-5610. The screening will let you know if more hearing or language testing is needed for your child.

Clinical Evaluations

Boys Town Pediatrics offers speech-language evaluations and therapy for children with communication concerns. Call 531-355-5807 to schedule an appointment with a speech-language pathologist.

Boys Town National Research Hospital - Downtown Medical Campus
555 N. 30th St.
Omaha, NE 68131

Boys Town Speech-Language Clinic
14015 Flanagan Blvd., Suite 101
Boys Town, NE 68010

Boys Town Center for Behavioral Health offers services for children with behavioral, social-emotional or academic development concerns. Call 531-355-3358 to schedule an appointment.

Boys Town Center for Behavioral Health
13460 Walsh Dr.
Boys Town, NE 68010

Educational Evaluations

Your child may qualify for a free assessment through the school district in which you reside. Some local districts are listed below.

Bellevue Public Schools
402-293-4000

Gretna Public Schools
402-332-3265

Bennington Public Schools
402-238-3044

Millard Public Schools
402-715-8302

DC West Community Schools
402-359-2583

Omaha Public Schools
531-299-0242

Elkhorn Public Schools
402-289-2579

Papillion-La Vista Community Schools
402-537-6200

Fremont Public Schools
402-727-3000

Westside Community Schools
402-390-2100