



Milestones Matter

Your Child's Communication: FOURTH GRADE

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

Listening

- Listen to and understand information
- Form opinions based on what she hears
- Listen for specific reasons, such as to learn, enjoy or convince

Speaking

- Use words in conversation correctly
- Use language for asking questions, arguing and joking
- Understand some figurative language
- Take part in group discussions
- Give correct directions to others
- Summarize ideas in his own words
- Organize information so it is clear
- Give clear speeches

Reading

- Read grade-level books smoothly with few mistakes
- Use what he knows to understand new material
- Follow written directions
- Take brief notes
- Link what she learns in one subject to other subjects
- Use reference materials, like a dictionary
- Think and talk about why the author wrote a book
- Read and understand different types of writing
- Make inferences from texts
- Talk about what she reads in her own words, called paraphrasing

Writing

- Write stories and explanations with many paragraphs about the same topic
- Develop a plan for writing that includes a beginning, middle and end
- Organize writing around a main idea
- Edit final copies for grammar, punctuation and spelling

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