



Milestones Matter

Your Child's Communication: KINDERGARTEN

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

Listening

- Follow one to two simple directions in a row
- Listen to and understand stories
- Follow a simple conversation

Speaking

- Speak clearly enough that most people understand what he says
- Answer simple yes/no questions
- Answer questions like "What did you have for lunch today?"
- Retell a story or talk about something he did
- Take turns talking and keep a conversation going
- Show interest in and start conversations

Reading

- Know how a book works; for example, we read from left to right and top to bottom in English.
- Understand that sounds make up words
- Pick out words that rhyme, like cat and hat
- Tell you the first sound in words, like mmmm for milk
- Say the sounds for some letters, like buh for B
- Identify uppercase and lowercase letters
- Recognize some words by sight
- "Read" a few picture books from memory
- Pretend to read by talking about pictures in a book

Writing

- Print her first name
- Draw a picture that tells a story and write about the picture; your child may write a letter or word to stand for a whole sentence or idea.
- Write uppercase and lowercase letters, even if they may not be clear or neat
- Write or type letters in no set order, like Mu zEos lx

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

- Talk with your child a lot
- Read different types of books; read every day and talk with your child about the story
- Help your child learn sound patterns of words; you can play rhyming games and point out letters as you read
- Have your child retell stories and talk about his day
- Talk with your child about what you do during the day; give her directions to follow
- Talk about how things are the same and different
- Give your child opportunities to write

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