



Milestones Matter

Your Child at 3 to 4 Years

How your child plays, learns, speaks, acts and moves offers important clues about his or her development.

Your Child's Communication

- Compares things with words like “bigger” or “shorter.”
- Tells you a story from a book or video.
- Understands and uses more location words like “inside,” “on” and “under.”
- Uses words such as “a” or “the” when talking. For example, “a book” or “the dog.”
- Pretends to read alone or with others.
- Recognizes signs and logos like STOP.
- Pretends to write or spell and can write some letters.
- Correctly produces “t,” “k,” “g,” “f,” “y” and -ing words.
- Says all the syllables in a word.
- Says the sounds at the beginning, middle and end of words.
- Talks smoothly. Does not repeat sounds, words or phrases most of the time.
- Speaks so that people can understand most of what they say. Child may make mistakes on sounds that are later to develop like “j,” “j,” “r,” “sh,” “ch,” “s,” “v” and “th.”
- Says all sounds in a consonant cluster containing two or more consonants in a row, like the “tw” in “tweet” or the “nd” in “sand.” May not produce all sounds correctly. For example, “spway” for “spray.”

Each child develops uniquely, even within the same family, and may meet certain milestones earlier or later than others. If your child does not meet many of the milestones within their age range, or if you have any concerns about your child's hearing or development, it is important to act early. It can make a big difference!

It's also important to note that the communication (hearing, speech, and language) milestones and cutoffs are for American English speakers. Speech-language development for children who speak languages outside of spoken American English may follow a different sequence or have different rates of mastery by age range.

You Can Help Your Child Learn and Grow

Here are some activities to enjoy with your child.

- **Sort pictures and objects into categories** like food, animals or shapes.
- **Read, sing and talk about what you do and where you go.** Do this in all the languages you use.
- **Read books with a simple story.** Talk about the story with your child. Help them retell the story or act it out. Tell them your favorite part of the story and ask for their favorite part.
- **Look at family pictures.** Have your child tell a story about the picture.
- **Help your child understand by asking them questions.**
- **Act out daily activities** like cooking food or going to the doctor.
- **Talk to your child in the languages** you are most comfortable using. From time to time, your child might mix words from different languages in the same sentence or conversation. Don't worry; this is a normal part of becoming multilingual.

If you have concerns, you can talk to your child's pediatrician, schedule a clinical evaluation or call your child's school district. You can also use ASHA ProFind (asha.org/profind) to find an ASHA-certified audiologist (asha.org/public/who-are-audiologists) or speech-language pathologist (asha.org/public/who-are-speech-language-pathologists) for an assessment.

For children 1 year (12 months) of age and up, you can also sign up for a free online or in-person speech, language and hearing screening with a speech-language pathologist from Boys Town National Research Hospital by emailing screenings@boystown.org or calling 531-355-5605. For more information visit bit.ly/hearing-language-screening.

Clinical Evaluations

Audiology: Boys Town National Research Hospital offers pediatric hearing evaluations. Please call 531-355-6520 for appointments.

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

Boys Town National Research Hospital - West
14040 Hospital Rd., Boys Town, NE 68010

Boys Town Council Bluffs Clinic
320 McKenzie Ave., Suite 202, Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Speech-Language Pathology: Boys Town National Research Hospital offers pediatric speech-language evaluations and therapy. Call 531-355-5087 for appointments.

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

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

Boys Town Pediatrics - Maple Street Clinic
3838 N. 167th Court, Omaha, NE 68116

Behavioral Health: Boys Town Center for Behavioral Health offers services for children with behavioral or social-emotional concerns. Call 531-355-3358 for appointments.

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 of which are listed below. For more information, you can also contact Nebraska ChildFind at 1-888-806-6287.

Ashland-Greenwood
Public Schools
402-944-7083

Bellevue Public Schools
402-293-4000

Bennington Public Schools
402-238-3044

Blair Community Schools
402-426-2610

DC West Community Schools
402-359-2583

Elkhorn Public Schools
402-289-2579 ext. 11000

Fremont Public Schools
402-727-3084

Gretna Public Schools
402-332-3265

Millard Public Schools
402-715-8302

Omaha Public Schools
531-299-0242

Papillion-La Vista
Community Schools
402-514-3243

Ralston Public Schools
402-331-4700

Westside Community Schools
402-390-2100

Yutan Public Schools
402-625-2141

