

# How should my 3 year old talk?

By 3 years old...

## Usually using at least 3 – 4 words in a sentence

- Example: "I want go outside:"
- Example: "Daddy gone work"
- Example: "I not want that"

## Describes what they are doing

- Example: 'I drawing'

## Identifies actions in a picture

- Example: 'he fell', 'she is running'

## Says their name and gender

## Uses pronouns

- 'I', 'me' rather than their name: 'I want that'
- 'you' rather than 'mummy', 'daddy': 'you go now?'
- 'he', 'she' (uses them, but may confuse gender – 'he' for 'she')

## Asks 'what' and 'where' questions

- Example: 'What's this?'
- Example: 'Where's mummy gone?'

## Begins to use basic grammar

- Word endings: 'jumping', 'toys'
- Regular past tense: 'jumped', 'danced', 'played'
- It is okay if they make errors for unusual past tense (eg. Say 'goed' rather than 'went' or 'runned' rather than 'ran')

## Enjoy saying simple, short stories, even if not in complete sentences

- E.g. telling you something that happened at preschool/playschool "I painted a picture" "I fell over. I hurt my knee"

**Disclaimer:** this fact sheet is a guide only and cannot replace a formal language assessment by a trained Speech Pathologist. For references used to create this fact sheet, please contact: