

How should my 4 year old talk?

By 4 years old...

Usually using at least 4 - 5 words in a sentence

- Example: "I don't want to go"
- Example: "I need to go toilet"
- Example: "I not need to go sleep"

Asks many questions

- What: "what are you doing?"
- When: "When we go to the playground?"
- Why: "Why are you sad?"

Uses joining words to make more complex sentences

- And: "I fell over and hurt my knee"
- Because: "I want that one because it's red"
- And then: "We climbed the ladder and then slid down"
- But: "I'm hungry but I don't like that"

Correctly uses word endings

- Word endings: 'jumping', 'toys'
- Regular past tense: 'jumped', 'danced', 'played'

Uses pronouns

- 'I', 'me' rather than their name: 'I want that'
- 'You' rather than 'mummy', 'daddy': 'you go now?'
- 'He', 'she' 'him' 'her' (should get the gender right, but may say 'her' for 'she' or 'him' for 'he')

Uses small grammar words in sentences

- the: "I want the ball"
- is: "this one is mine"

Can tell a connected story

- Using and/because/and then/ but
- about a recent event

(eg. Something that happened at preschool)

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: