

What should my 4 year old understand?

By 4 years old...

Position concepts

- Next to
- Above, under
- In, on
- Inside, outside

Quantity concepts

- Some of..., all of...
- One, two, three items

Shapes

- Circle, triangle, square

Basic colours

- Red, blue, yellow, green, orange, pink

Some opposites

- wet, dry
- clean, dirty
- tall, short
- empty, full

Understand past, present, future

- May not get completely correct, but will know that 'yesterday' has already been, and 'tomorrow' hasn't

Can put objects into word groups

- Apples, carrots, bread, biscuits are all types of food
- dogs, cats, rabbits, horses are all types of animals
- shoes, socks, hat, t-shirt, jeans are all types of clothes

Follows more complex and longer directions (without needing pointing/gesturing)

- "take off your shoes and your coat"
- "pass me the toy that's under the table"
- "put the yellow truck in the red box"

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: