

Communication and Language

Three and Four-Year-Olds

- Enjoy listening to longer stories and can remember much of what happens.
- Can find it difficult to pay attention to more than one thing at a time.
- Use a wider range of vocabulary.
- Understand a question or instruction that has two parts, such as "Get your coat and wait at the door".
- Understand 'why' questions, like: "Why do you think the caterpillar got so fat?"
- Sing a large repertoire of songs.
- Know many rhymes, be able to talk about familiar books, and be able to tell a long story.
- Develop their communication, but may continue to have problems with irregular tenses and plurals, such as 'runned' for 'ran', 'swimmed' for 'swam'.
- May have problems saying:
 - some sounds: r, j, th, ch, and sh
 - multisyllabic words such as 'pterodactyl', 'planetarium' or 'hippopotamus'
- Use longer sentences of four to six words.
- Be able to express a point of view and to debate when they disagree with an adult or a friend, using words as well as actions.
- Can start a conversation with an adult or a friend and continue it for many turns.
- Use talk to organise themselves and their play: "Let's go on a bus... you sit there... I'll be the driver."
- Understand how to listen carefully and why listening is important.