

Developmental milestones

Reception class (4 – 5)

A child at this stage can:

Concentration and listening

- Complete a task while listening to another instruction (two-channelled attention)
- Listen to and follow a long story with pictures

Understanding

- Understand a sentence containing four parts, e.g. *"put the blue pencil under the book"*
- Understand the question words, "who", "what" and "where"
- Recognise most colours
- Understand prepositions, e.g. in, under, in front
- Still understand things literally, e.g. *"pull your socks up"*
- Begin to understand how words can link together, e.g. categories

Talking

- Tell a familiar story with picture prompts
- Use sentences of between five and seven words
- Join sentences with "and/but" to make longer sentences
- Over apply grammatical rules, e.g. drawn, mans
- Talk about events or activities that are not in the here and now.
- Use a vocabulary of approximately 1,500 words

Speech

- Use speech that is mostly easy to understand
- Use most speech sounds although may still have difficulty with the r, th, l, ch and j sounds
- Simplify sounds blends, e.g. "spoon" said as "poon" , "flower" as "fower"
- Recognise and produce rhymes
- Clap out the syllables in longer words

NB Single words may be clearer than sentences

Big muscles and movement skills (these can be referred to as gross motor skills)

- Use playground equipment independently
- Stand on one foot for five seconds or more
- "gallop" for 4 – 5 metres
- Hop on one foot for five or more times
- Run around avoiding objects
- Go up and down stairs using alternate feet and without support
- Kick a ball
- Throw a ball overhand.

Hand and finger skills (these can be referred to as fine motor skills)

- Draw a person with 2 or 4 body parts, including head, body, legs and usually arms and fingers
- Look at a book turning one page at a time
- Colour and keep within the lines
- Write a few letters
- Probably have a dynamic pencil grip
- Cut out a square and simple shapes using scissors
- Screw and unscrew
- Thread beads at a rate of 12 in 55 seconds

Self Care

- Use cutlery appropriately; spoon of liquids, knife for spreading and cutting, and can hold a fork in fingers
- Hold a cup with one hand
- Put on shoes and socks correctly and can fasten shoes with Velcro fittings
- Manage simple buckles
- Put clothes on correctly, i.e not back to front or inside out
- Do up a zip on a jacket; connecting both parts and pulling it up
- Wash face and body using a soap and flannel
- Dry self, using a towel
- Use a toothbrush, including putting on tooth paste
- Use a brush/comb
- Use the toilet with fewer accidents
- Manage toilet seat, can flush and will try to wipe themselves.

Social skills

- Enjoy role play and make believe
- Not negotiate when things don't go their way
- Not always able to take turns
- Not always able to understand other's point of view
- Play co-operatively with other children

