

Language and Communication: Age 4–5/Not Yet in Kindergarten

ATTENDING AND UNDERSTANDING

- 1 Child attends to communication and language from others. 1**
 - a Shows acknowledgment of complex comments or questions. 1.A
 - b Is able to attend to longer, multi-turn conversations, either spoken or signed. 1.B

- 2 Child understands and responds to increasingly complex communication and language from others. 2**
 - a Understands and responds (verbally and nonverbally) to complex statements, questions, and stories containing multiple phrases and ideas. 2.A

COMMUNICATING AND SPEAKING

- 3 Child varies the amount of information provided to meet the demands of the situation. 3**
 - a Uses language, spoken or sign, for a variety of purposes and can typically provide sufficient detail in order to get needs met from a variety of trusted adults. 3.A

- 4 Child understands, follows, and uses appropriate social and conversational rules. 4**
 - a Maintains multi-turn conversations with trusted adults or other children by being responsive to the conversational partner in a variety of ways, such as by asking a question. 4.A
 - b With increasing independence, varies tone and volume of expression to match the social situation. 4.B

5 Child expresses self in increasingly long, detailed, and sophisticated ways. 5

- a Communicates clearly enough to be understood by familiar and unfamiliar adults, but may make some pronunciation errors and some isolated grammatical errors. 5.A
- b Uses longer sentences, as well as sentences that are slightly more complex, such as “I need a pencil because this one broke.” 5.B
- c Can offer multiple pieces of information on a topic with increasing independence and answer simple questions. 5.C
- d Children who are dual language learners may use the language structure of the home language when speaking English, such as “I have a dog big.” 5.D

VOCABULARY

6 Child understands and uses a wide variety of words for a variety of purposes. 6

- a Shows a steady increase in vocabulary through the acquisition of words with increasing specificity and variety. 6.A
- b Shows repetition of new words offered by adults and may ask about the meaning of unfamiliar words. 6.B

7 Child shows understanding of word categories and relationships among words. 7

- a Demonstrates an increasingly sophisticated understanding of words and word categories with support, such as listing multiple examples of a familiar category or identifying words that have the same meaning (synonyms) and words that have opposite meanings (antonyms). 7.A