



Fun Talk: 5 Year Olds

Your 5-year-old will be able to speak five to six word sentences. He should say almost all speech sounds correctly. You can talk to him as you would an adult most of the time and he will understand you. You will want your child to understand language and be able to express himself so he will do well in school. He will also be a happier child if he can communicate well with others.

Things to try:

- Give your child scrap paper (without lines on it) and crayons or large pencils. Let him draw and then ask him to tell what he's made. Let him use his imagination.
- Teach him to recognize coins (e.g., a penny, a nickel, a dime and a quarter). Have a jar or a piggy bank for loose change or let the child have a piggy bank to save money. Let the child name the coins while putting them in the jar or bank. Also talk about how much each coin is worth.
- Teach "big" and "little." Get together pairs of objects that are about the same except for size. **Example:** shoes (child and adult), books, toy cars, socks (child and adult). Show your child which of the pair is big and which is little. Then, ask your child to show you which is the big one or the little one.
- Read to the child and give him a chance to tell you a story he's learned. You might try using his favorite comic strip from the paper by cutting the pictures apart and then letting him put them back together in the right order. Nursery rhymes are fun, too. Many public libraries have children's story times. You can also get a library card and check out books to read at home.
- When doing laundry, let your child match socks. Talk about socks that are the "same" and "different."
- Teach opposite words – hard/soft (a hard rock, a soft pillow)
long/short (a long pencil, a short pencil)
heavy/light (a heavy bag of groceries, a light bag of groceries)
front/back (Who is standing in front of you in line?) (Who is in the back?)
light/dark (separating light and dark colored clothes to do the laundry; light or dark outside)
tall/short (in describing people that you see)
- Help your child learn to describe objects by talking about what they're used for, made of, the color, size, shape, etc. You could make this a guessing game.
Example: "I'm thinking of something that is small, round, and white. You hit it with a bat or you can throw it."
Answer: baseball

Take turns letting your child give the clues and guessing the object.

For more information contact Guilford County Department of Public Health at 336-641-7777 or www.myguilford.com