






Westfield Nursery School Children Talking

Age	Expectation	What you can do
By two years... 	Use up to 50 or more single words e.g. 'no', 'book', 'biscuit'	Comment on what they are doing. e.g. 'You are building a tower.'
	Be starting to put short sentences together e.g. 'more juice'	Wait for them to speak and respond to what they say.
	Be starting to ask simple questions e.g. 'what that?' 'Who that?'	Join in their play, following their lead.
	Understand between 200 and 500 words	Have a conversation everyday
By three years... 	Use up to 300 words	They enjoy spending time with other children and adults.
	Use words to describe what things look like e.g. 'big', 'soft', where things are e.g. 'under', 'on' or how many e.g. 'lots'	Keep the talk going by nodding, smiling and encouraging. Make comments e.g. 'Wow', 'really,'
	Refer to something that has happened in the past	Share books and talk about the story.
	Put 4 or 5 words together in a sentence e.g. 'Me want more juice.' 'I want my coat.'	Add words to their sentence e.g. If they say 'car, ramp, fast.' You say 'The car goes down the ramp fast. Wow!'
	Understand longer instructions e.g. 'Put away your lunchbox and hang up your coat.'	Enjoy a variety of songs and rhymes.
By four years... 	Ask and answer lots of questions using 'what, where and why.'	Give longer instructions for them to follow.
	Use longer sentences and link sentences together e.g. 'I had pizza for tea and then I played in the garden.'	Make up a story together. Think of a character- where do they live? What do they do? Are there any mishaps? What happened in the end?
	Understand and use colour, number and time related words.	Think of words that belong to the same category e.g. animals, fruits, football teams, dinosaurs.
	Start to like simple jokes.	Play around with words and sounds, e.g. think of words which start with the same sound.

(Taken from 'Universally Speaking- the ages and stages of children's communication development from birth to 5')