

Expressive Language – Developmental Continuum

Increasing use of more complex and sophisticated vocabulary
 Vocabulary must be shared, given and taught and not presumed
 See [Building Vocabulary for Better Literacy](#) Powerpoint on the Highland Council Literacy Toolkit

See
[Overview of Early \(3 year old\) Pre-school Skills](#)

Can express needs and wants using phrases / 4 to 5 word sentences

Able to use pronouns (I, he) plurals and some 'ing' words

Tells others what to do; 'don't do that', 'give it to me', 'it's mine'

Talks about pictures/ stories in their own words and can link to own experiences

See
[Overview of Pre-school \(4 year old\) Skills](#)

Uses well-formed sentences; may have some grammatical immaturities; 'falld'

Can use language to describe a scene

Uses language to gain information and give own ideas

Starts, takes turns and stops, in longer conversations

Talks about the past, present and future using the correct verbs

Uses a range of conjunctions to link ideas

Can describe an event in a reasonable order

Can sequence 3 to 4 pictures / photos logically and talk through the story

Generates complex sentences to describe and explain ideas

Can generate a verbal story in a reasonable order

Makes inferences about a story or from an observation

Makes and justifies a prediction about what might happen next