

Supporting Language & Literacy

4 Years: Tongue Twisters

Mastering the individual sounds in words is a critical skill for reading success. When you and your child have fun with tongue twisters, you're challenging their ability to make the individual sounds in each word and making them to pay attention to the exact sounds in each word.

Tips & Activities



Share your favorite tongue twisters, e.g. 'I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream.'

Take time to answer your child's 'why' questions.



When telling stories, playing, or doing chores, use words such as 'first,' 'second,' or 'finally.'



While reading, take pauses to ask your child what they think might happen next.



When possible, speak with your child in complete sentences.

Common Language Milestones



Says all the syllables in a word—sounds at the beginning, middle, and end of words

Uses words like 'a' or 'the' when talking, e.g. 'the book' or 'the dog'

Can recite simple stories or songs and recall past events

Compares things using words, e.g. *bigger* and *smaller*

Talks smoothly, without a stutter

Early Detection *is* Intervention

Your child is always learning! As a caregiver, you have an amazing opportunity to guide them on a path to success.

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If you notice your child is having difficulties with a certain skill, isn't meeting multiple milestones, or if something just doesn't feel quite right, **talk with your child's healthcare provider.**

Tips to set you and your child up for success when speaking with their healthcare provider:

Keep a journal

Write down things that you notice your child doing, or not doing, that cause reason for concern.

Use your resources

Explore the websites listed below to find milestone checklists, a list of early warning signs, videos, and more.

Trust your instincts

You know your child best and you are their best advocate. Don't be afraid to speak up.

Additional Resources

[Pathways: Communication](#)

[Harvard University: Center on the Developing Child](#)

[Cox Campus](#)

[The Basics](#)

[CDC Milestones](#)