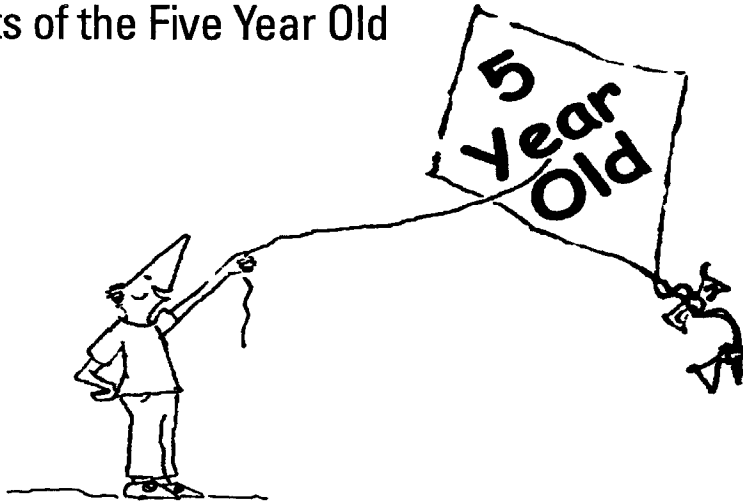


## Speech and Language Traits of the Five Year Old



### At age five, your child will ...

- define objects by their use (you eat with a fork) and can tell what objects are made of
- know spatial relations such as “on top”, “behind,” “far,” and “near”
- know his address
- have a sentence length of 5 to 6 words
- have a vocabulary of about 2,000 words
- uses speech sounds correctly
- know common opposites like “big/little” and “hard/soft”
- understand same and different
- count ten objects
- use future, present and past tense
- questions for information
- use all types of sentences, some of which will be complex
- put things in order to facilitate comparison
- carry on conversation like an “adult”

## You can stimulate the five year old’s speech and language by ...

- encouraging the child to use language to express feelings, ideas, dreams, wishes and fears
- commenting on what you did or how you think the child feels, as this will encourage more talking
- allowing the child to create new, free designs with crayons, pencils and paper
- allowing opportunities to learn songs, rhymes or verses from memory
- continuing to read longer stories
- talking with the child as you would an adult in most instances
- remembering the child will still understand more than he or she will be able to say
- listening to the child when he or she talks to you

Provided for you by the Speech & Hearing Board of the Baptist Health Care Foundation, a United Way Agency

If this information raises concerns regarding your child you may call one of the following for further information:



**SPEECH & HEARING BOARD**

- Baptist Hospital Speech & Hearing Clinic  
(850) 434-4957
- Speech Department of West Florida Hospital  
(850) 494-6140
- Audiology Clinic Escambia District Schools  
(850) 453-7472