

Expressive Language Screening Tool

Record form

Student name _____

D.O.B _____

Adult name _____

Current Age _____

Date of assessment _____

Age _____
at Previous Assessment

Pre-Level 1 – 6 months to 11 months

Does the baby/ young person...			
P1-1A	make sounds to get adult attention?		
P1-2A	make different vocalisations to express needs and wants, e.g. hunger?		
P1-3A	begin to babble and make sounds like cooing and gurgling and combine with consonants, e.g. 'ba, ba ba' or 'ma, ma ma'?		
P1-4A	smile when he/she hears a familiar voice or sees a familiar face?		
P1-5A	get excited when they hear voices coming, e.g. by kicking, waving their arms or making noises?		
P1-6A	point, vocalise or use eye contact to direct adult's attention to object? (Relevant at 9 month age)		
P1-7A	start to make intentional communication with others, e.g. gain attention to request something? (Relevant at 9 month age)		

Pre-Level 2 – 1.0 to 1.5 years (12 – 17 months)

Adult questions

Does the child/ young person...			
P2-1A	use some single words - usually between 2-5 words?		
P2-2A	use gestures such as waving and pointing to help communicate?		
P2-3A	protest by saying 'no', shaking head, pushing person/object aside or moving away?		
P2-4A	begin to imitate words said by the carer e.g. can he/she copy words such as 'mummy', 'car', 'bubbles', 'ball'?		
P2-5A	babble short strings which sound almost like real words and sentences?		

Pre-Level 3 – 1.5 to 2.0 years (18 – 23 months)

Adult questions

Does the child/ young person...			
P3-1A	use at least 10 words to name including familiar objects and toys?		
P3-2A	begin to copy or join in or make sounds when the adult sings action rhymes - e.g. 'incy wincy spider' or 'twinkle twinkle little star'?		
P3-3A	make animal sounds, e.g. 'miaow', 'quack' or other symbolic sounds, e.g. 'brmm' for car, or 'shhhh' for going to sleep?		
P3-4A	point and comment using vocalisation and attempts at words for things he/she wants or sees, e.g. 'drink', 'bubbles', 'dog'?		
P3-5A	like watching or being with adults for short periods of time?		

Level 1 – 2.0 to 2.5 years (24 – 29 months)

Adult questions

Does the child/ young person...			
1-1A	have a vocabulary of at least 50 words (can be up to 200)?		
1-2A	use some 2-3 word utterances, e.g. 'more drink', 'mummy gone', 'give me', 'daddy car go'?		
1-3A	use personal pronouns, e.g. 'I', 'me', 'mine', 'you'? Elicit by pointing to own nose/eyes, then to child's nose/eyes.		
1-4A	name and talk about pictures in a book?		

Young person questions

1-5 Can name everyday items?			
1-5.1YP	Can you tell me what this is?(Cup)		
1-5.2YP	Can you tell me what this is? (Ball)		
1-5.3YP	Can you tell me what this is? (Car)		
1-5.4YP	Can you tell me what this is? (Shoe)		
1-5.5YP	Can you tell me what this is? (Dog)		

1-6 Can use 'ing' when describing the picture.			
1-6.1YP	This girl is eating. <i>[Turn]</i> What is the boy doing? (Sleeping)		
1-6.2YP	What is this girl doing? (Drinking)		
1-6.3YP	What is this boy doing? (Washing)		

1-7 Can use 'big' and 'little'?			
1-7.1YP	This cake is big. <i>[Turn]</i> But this cake is...? (Little/small)		
1-7.2YP	This house is little. <i>[Turn]</i> But this house is...? (Big)		
1-7.3YP	This fish is big. <i>[Turn]</i> But this fish is...? (Big)		

Level 2 – 2.5 to 3.0 years (30 – 35 months)

Adult questions

2-1 Does the child/ young person...			
2-1A	use three word utterances to form short phrases when talking?		
2-2A	ask 'who', 'what' and 'where' questions such as what's that?, who's that? or where ball?		
2-3A	make 2-3 conversational turns when talking with an adult or peer?		
2-4A	Enjoy talking about experiences and during play or their favourite activity?		

Young person questions

2-5 Can use three word utterances to form short phrases.			
2-5.1YP	What is happening in this picture? (Boy drink juice <i>[or similar]</i>)		
2-5.2YP	What is happening in this picture? (Boy read book)		
2-5.3YP	What is happening in this picture? (Girl painting picture)		

2-6 Can describe a picture involving 'in' and 'on' prepositions.			
2-6.2YP	This cat is in the box. <i>[Turn]</i> Where is the cat now? (On the box)		
2-6.2YP	Where is the elephant? (On a car)		

2-6.3YP	Where is the elephant now? (In a car)		
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2-7 Can use regular plurals.			
2-7.1YP	Here is one cake, <i>[Turn]</i> and here are lots of... (Cakes)		
2-7.2YP	Here is one duck, <i>[Turn]</i> and here are lots of... (Ducks)		
2-7.3YP	Here is one balloon, <i>[Turn]</i> and here are lots of... (Balloons)		

2-8 Gives answers to 'who', 'what' and 'no' in relation to a picture.			
2-8.1YP	Who is in the picture? Is he reading? What is he doing? (Boy eating)		
2-8.2YP	Who is in the picture? Is she hiding? What is she doing? (Cat sleeping)		
2-8.3YP	Who is in the picture? What is she doing? (Girl brushing hair)		
2-8.4YP	Who is in the picture? What is she doing? (Woman riding)		

Level 3 – 3.0 to 3.5 years (36 – 41 months)

Adult questions

Does the child/ young person...			
3-1A	use 3-4 word spoken utterances and longer sentences?		
3-2A	talk about the functional use of objects such as 'a bed is for sleeping', or 'you can kick a ball'.		
3-3A	use some pronouns, such as 'he', 'she', 'him' and 'her' appropriately?.		
3-4A	begin to use articles such as 'the' and 'a'.		
3-5A	begin to use verb forms 'is' and 'am' e.g. 'dog is happy rather' than 'dog happy'.		

Young person questions

3-6 Can use 3-4 word utterances and longer sentences.			
3-6.1YP	Tell me what is happening in this picture. (Girl putting on a sock)		
3-6.2YP	Tell me what is happening in this picture. (Children playing with bricks)		
3-6.3YP	Tell me what is happening in this picture. (Woman giving a present)		

3-7 Can say what objects are used for.			
3-7.1YP	We use a fork to eat with. <i>[Turn]</i> What do we use a pencil for. (Drawing)		
3-7.2YP	What do we use scissors for? (Cutting)		
3-7.3YP	What do we use a spade for? (Digging)		

3-8 Can use preposition 'under', 'in' and 'on' to describe a picture.			
3-8.1YP	Where is the rabbit? (Under the chair)		
3-8.2YP	Where is the cat? (In the box)		
3-8.3YP	Where is the dog? (On the car)		
3-8.4YP	Where is the dog now ? (Under the car)		
3-8.5YP	Where is the boy ? (Under the table)		
3-8.5YP	Where is this boy? (On the table)		

3-9 Can describe what has changed			
3-9.1YP	Look carefully at the pictures. <i>[Turn]</i> Tell me what has gone? (Clock missing)		
3-9.2YP	Look carefully at the pictures <i>[Turn]</i> Tell me what has gone? (Key missing)		
3-9.3YP	Look carefully at the pictures. <i>[Turn]</i> Tell me what's different? (Frog is blue)		
3-9.3YP	Look carefully at the pictures <i>[Turn]</i> Tell me what's different? Lion instead of dog)		

3-10 Can answer a question by association <i>[No illustrations]</i>			
3-10.1YP	Tell me something you wear.		
3-10.2YP	Tell me something you eat.		
3-10.3YP	Tell me something you can kick.		
3-10.4YP	Tell me something that has wheels.		
3-10.5YP	Tell me something that tells the time.		

Level 4 – 3.5 to 4.0 years (42 – 47 months)

Adult questions

4-1 Does the child/ young person...			
4-1A	make 4-5 word utterances when talking to adults and peers?		
4-2A	correctly use plural form 'are' as well as singular use of 'am and 'is'?		
4-3A	ask 'how', 'why' and 'when' questions and expect detailed answers?		
4-4A	begin to use some descriptive words (adjectives) including opposites and colours?		
4-5A	tell a story of 2 events in sequence, e.g. I went to the park and then to the café?		

Young person questions

4-2 Can make 4-5 word utterances.			
4-6.1YP	Tell me what is happening in this picture? (Man listening to bells)		
4-6.2YP	Tell me what is happening in this picture? (Girl having a bedtime story)		
4-6.3YP	Tell me what is happening in this picture? (Man walking his dog)		

4-7 Can use pronouns 'he', 'she' and 'they' with correct form of 'is' and 'are'.			
4-7.1YP	In this picture he is sleeping. <i>[Turn]</i> What is happening in this picture? (He is reading)		
4-7.2YP	In this picture she is jumping. <i>[Turn]</i> What is happening in this picture? (She is drawing)		
4-7.3YP	In this picture they are swimming. <i>[Turn]</i> What is happening in this picture? (They are running)		

4-8 Can use adjectives in sentences.			
4-8.1YP	This small blue car is slow. <i>[Turn]</i> Describe this picture to me.		
4-8.2YP	These green boots are dry. <i>[Turn]</i> Describe these.		
4-8.3YP	This big toy box is empty. <i>[Turn]</i> Describe this one.		
4-8.4YP	This lady is short. Describe this person.		
4-8.5YP	This butterfly is red and pink. <i>Turn]</i> Describe this one.		

4-9 Can talk about simple stories with two events.			
4-9.1YP	Who is in the picture and what is happening? (Man getting banana and eating it)		
4-9.2YP	Who is in the picture and what is happening? (Boy cleaning his teeth)		

4-10 Can answer 'when' questions <i>[No illustrations]</i>			
4-10.1YP	When do you have breakfast?		
4-10.2YP	When do you go to bed?		
4-10.3YP	When do you brush your teeth?		

Level 5 – 4.0 to 4.5 years (48 – 53 months)

Adult questions

Does the child/ young person...			
5-1A	use a minimum of 5 word sentences and other longer sentences?		
5-2A	talk about and label emotions of self or others?		
5-3A	answer simple 'why' questions appropriately and use 'because'?		
5-4A	use different verb tenses, including 'going to' for the future?		

Young person questions

5-5 Can recognise and talk about basic emotions.			
5-5.1YP	How is this girl feeling? (Happy)		
5-5.2YP	How is this boy feeling? (Angry)		
5-5.3YP	How is this girl feeling? (Sad)		
5-5.4YP	How is this man feeling? (Scared)		

5-6 Can understand and answer cause and effect questions. Beginning use 'because' or 'so'.			
5-6.1YP	Why is this boy cold? (no fire)		
5-6.2YP	Why has the boy got his hands over his ears? (Music is too loud)		
5-6.3YP	Why can't the boy reach the cupboard? (Too high, or not tall enough)		
5-6.4YP	Why is the man turning off the light? (so the girl can go to sleep)		

5-7 Can use regular and irregular tenses			
5-7.1YP	This man is washing his car. <i>[Turn]</i> What has he done now?		
5-7.2YP	This man is eating a pie. <i>[Turn]</i> What has he done now?		
5-7.3YP	This burglar is stealing a necklace. <i>[Turn]</i> What has the burglar done?		

Can use 'and' to link two parts of a sentence.			
5-8.1YP	Here is a pig and a sheep. <i>[Turn]</i> What can you see in this picture? (sheep and cow)		
5-8.2YP	What can you see in this picture? (giraffe and lion)		
5-8.3YP	What can you see in this picture? (Lady singing and man clapping.)		
5-8.4YP	What can you see in this picture? (Man holding a baby and lady reading the paper.)		
5-8.5YP	What can you see in this picture? (Monkey sitting and monkey jumping on bed.)		

5-9 Beginning to understand and explain cause and effect (early problem solving skills.) <i>[No illustrations]</i>			
5-9.1YP	What should you do when you are cold?		
5-9.2YP	What should you do when you are tired?		
5-9.3YP	What should you do when you are thirsty?		

Level 6 – 4.5 to 5.0 years (54 – 59 months)

Adult questions

Does the child/ young person...			
6-1A	tell stories that link events in a logical order even if he/she goes off track?		
6-2A	answer 'why' and 'how' questions appropriately?		
6-3A	use descriptive words to describe and talk about an object?		

Young person questions

6-4 Can name categories.			
6-4.1YP	Frog, mouse, pig and snake. What type of things are these? (Animals)		
6-4.2YP	What are all these? (Clothes)		
6-4.3YP	What are all these? (Food)		
6-4.4YP	What are all these? (Transport)		

6-5 Is able to talk about the reason for emotions. <i>[Wait for a response between each part of these questions]</i>			
6-5.1YP	How is this girl feeling? Why is she feeling this way? (Dropped ice cream)		
6-5.2YP	How is this boy feeling? Why is he feeling this way? (Listening to story)		
6-5.3YP	How is this man feeling? Why is he feeling this way? (Spider)		
6-5.4YP	How is this girl feeling? Why is she feeling this way? (Dog about to wreck sandcastle)		
6-5.5YP	How are these children feeling? Why are they feeling this way? (Dancing at a party)		
6-5.6YP	How is this man feeling? Why is he feeling this way? (Goalkeeper missing ball)		

6-6 Can talk about and explain everyday events. <i>To score correctly the story should have a beginning, middle and end, with the words 'then' or 'next'.</i>			
6-6.1YP	Tell me what is happening in these pictures. (Girl having a bath)		
6-6.2YP	Tell me what is happening in these pictures. (Lady going shopping)		
6-6.3YP	Tell me what is happening in these pictures. (Man washing car)		
6-6.4YP	<i>[The pictures are then hidden.]</i> Can you remember what happened? (re-tell in the right order.) <i>[Use Turn button to reveal pictures]</i>		

6-7 Uses future tense with 'going to'.			
6-7.1YP	This boy is going to clean his teeth. <i>[Turn]</i> What is happening here? (Girl having a bath)		
6-7.2YP	What is happening here? (Boy going to swim)		
6-7.3YP	What is happening here? (Children going to get dinner)		

6-8 Can name known items that belong to a group. <i>[No illustrations]</i>			
6-8.1YP	Tell me some animals you can think of. <i>Name at least 6 animals in a minute. Baby animals only count if their name is quite different e.g. Cat and kitten.</i>		
6-8.2YP	Tell me some things you can eat. <i>Name at least 6 foods in a minute.</i>		

6-9 Can give definitions and describe an item, e.g. colour, shape and use. <i>[No illustrations]</i>			
6-9.1YP	What can you tell me about a banana? <i>E.g. colour, shape, how it is used or what it is for.</i>		
6-9.2YP	What can you tell me about a bed? <i>E.g. what is it like, why we need it.</i>		
6-9.3YP	What can you tell me about a house? <i>E.g. what it may look like, what it has and why we need it .</i>		

Level 7 –5.0 years plus (60+ months)

Adult questions

Does the young person...			
7-1A	use grammatically correct sentences with complex verbs? e.g. using auxiliary verbs 'was running', 'has eaten', 'will go'.		
7-2A	use correct speech sounds which are intelligible and clear?		
7-3A	provide detailed verbal descriptions of objects? e.g. including shape, colour, texture, function, category, location etc.		
7-4A	give his/her name and address?		
7-5A	start, continue and end conversations with friends and adults appropriately?		
7-6A	tell stories and explain simple events such as getting to school, making a sandwich or how to brush their teeth?		

Young person questions

7-7 Can use sentences of six words or more.			
7-7.1YP	What can you tell me is happening in this picture? <i>[May use prompt, such as 'Anything else?']</i>		
7-7.2YP	What can you tell me is happening in this picture? <i>[May use prompt, such as 'Anything else?']</i>		

7-8 Can re-tell stories in the right order, and remember the sequence. Can retell a short story in roughly the right order and using language that makes it sound like a story, including 'and', 'but' and 'then'. Maintains the theme and sequence.			
7-8.1YP	Explain what is happening here. (Going into school)		
7-8.2YP	Explain what is happening here. (Making a sandwich)		
	<i>[The pictures are then hidden.]</i> Can you remember what happened? (re-tell in the right order.) <i>[Use Turn button to reveal pictures]</i>		
7-8.3YP	Explain what is happening here. (Going swimming)		
	<i>[The pictures are then hidden.]</i> Can you remember what happened? (re-tell in the right order.) <i>[Use Turn button to reveal pictures]</i>		