



What my child Can Do List

Instructions:

If your child struggles with speech and language, it is easy to focus on what your child *can't* do. When you focus on what your child can't do, like can't say words yet, can't combine words, can't speak in sentences, can't produce sounds correctly, it is tempting to jump right in and start to try to get them to do those exact things.

But! If your child cannot yet do those things, you need to look at what your child *can* do, and then start there. It is helpful to think about the skills that your child can do in the area of communication. If you focus on the things your child can do, then it's much easier to figure out a starting place in helping them.

That is how you will make the most progress with your child. And, that is how you can best help them with their communication skills! Plus, isn't it more fun to think about all the things your child CAN do? Ok, let's get started!



Fill out the 'Can Do List' and write in your child's strengths in each area. Use the 'idea lists' as a guide, but feel free to add in your own strengths too! Remember to look at those nonverbal communication skills as well, not just talking. Make sure you include skills related to communication.

Below you will find skills listed in each area to give you ideas of what to include under each category for your child's strengths. This can also be helpful to fill out and share with your child's SLP. These would be great areas to share as part of your child's Individualized Educational Program. Keep these handy as a list of your child's strengths!

Also, remember that you will need to come back and add to this list as your child continues to make progress and add to all the things they CAN DO!!



Have fun focusing on your child's communication strengths and celebrate the successes (however small)!

Name

Date

Ideas

Read through the list below to get ideas of what your child can do in the following areas. Then, write down your child's strengths in each area. Have fun discovering what your child can do!

* NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION

Does your child....

- Look at you
- Pay attention when someone is talking
- Smile
- Laugh
- Use gestures
- Use signs
- Use facial expressions
- Show affection

* SPEECH SOUNDS

Does your child....

- Babble
- Say vowels
- Say consonants
- Use jargon (speech like sounds)
- Say specific sounds: p, b, m, t, d, w, k, etc...

Ideas

Read through the list below to get ideas of what your child can do in the following areas. Then, write down your child's strengths in each area. Have fun discovering what your child can do!

* UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE

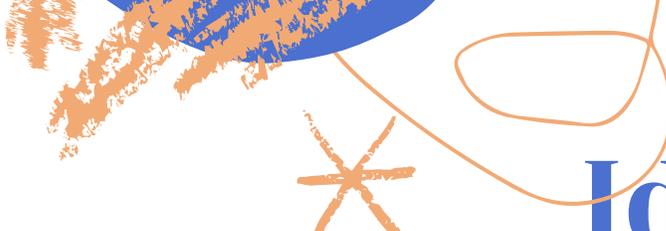
Does your child....

- Respond to their name
- Follow simple directions
- Understand words
- Understand stories
- Understand your non-verbal cues (pointing, shaking head no, etc)
- Understand questions (i.e. what, where, who)

* EXPRESSING LANGUAGE

Does your child...

- Initiate communication with you (vocalizing, gestures, signs, etc)
- Say yes/no
- Use words
- Use sentences
- Make their needs & wants known
- Answer questions verbally or nonverbally
- Ask questions



Ideas

Read through the list below to get ideas of what your child can do in the following areas. Then, write down your child's strengths in each area. Have fun discovering what your child can do!



SOCIAL INTERACTION



Does your child....

- Wave hi and bye
- Look at you for guidance
- Point and look at you to show you things
- Take turns talking
- Take turns in games
- Show empathy
- Include others while playing
- Engage in pretend play (feed doll, tea party, play kitchen)
- Say please & thank you
- Express feelings
- Understand unspoken rules

Name _____

Date _____



CAN DO LIST!

What are your child's strengths?

**NON VERBAL
COMMUNICATION**

SPEECH SOUNDS

UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE

EXPRESSIVE LANGUAGE

SOCIAL INTERACTION

OTHER

