

Intelligibility

Intelligibility is a judgment of how much a listener understands a child's speech. Intelligibility of a child between the ages of 3 and 5 varies greatly.

Typical Speech Intelligibility Expectations

| Age | Average Speech Intelligibility | Speech Intelligibility Range |
|------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3 | 73% | 54%-80% |
| 4 | 93% | 73-100% |
| 5 | Not reported | 90%-100% |

Gordon-Brannan, 1994; Gordon-Brannan & Hodson 2000; Hodson 2002; Pena-Brooks & Hedge, 2000; Vihman & Greenlee, 1987; Vihman, 1998

Data from a variety of clinical and research sources (Gordon-Brannan and Hodson 2000; Peña-Brooks & Hedge, 2000; Vihman & Greenlee, 1987) reveals average speech intelligibility and range expectations vary for typically developing 3–5year-olds. “Children above the age of 4 with intelligibility percentages below 66 percent may be ‘at risk’. The children farther along the continuum toward unintelligible speech would be of greatest concern not only for communication success, but also potentially for problems in developing literacy skills” (GordonBrannan and Hodson 2000).