

Examples of Early Stage word and sentence level language development

Checklist of functions and sentence patterns

Functions	Sentence patterns
Identifying objects	What's this? It's a What are these? They're Is this a? Yes it is/No it isn't Are these? Yes they are? No they aren't
Asking for things	Can I have a, please?
Identifying actions	What are you doing? I'ming What is she/he doing? S/he'sing Are you? Yes I am/No I'm not Is s/heing? Yes s/he is/No s/he isn't etc.
Locating objects	<i>prepositions:-</i> Where's the/my/your? It's here/there It's on/in/under/beside/etc
Describing problems	What's the matter? I've hurt/lost/broken My hurts/is broken/is missing/etc.
Expressing likes/dislikes	Do you like? Yes I do/No I don't because....
Expressing possession	That's mine/his/her/ours/etc. I've got a Have you got a? Yes I have/No I haven't
Describing objects	What colour is this? It's red/blue/etc How big/long/wide is this? It's ... cm long/wide They're the same/different What's it made of? It's made of wood/paper/etc.
Counting	How many are there? There is/are 1/2/3/etc. A lot/many/some/a few/etc.
Describing ability	I can Can you? Yes I can/No I can't
Reporting and narrating	<i>simple past tense:-</i> I went/saw/played etc Did you go/see/play etc. ? Yes I did/No I didn't yesterday, last week
Describing lifestyles and regular events	What does a chemist/bus driver/etc. do? He... She... What do you do after school? etc.
Predicting the future	I'm going to be an astronaut/film star/zoo keeper We will look at that tomorrow. I'm holding a party on Sunday etc.
Referring to past and present	I've hurt/broken/lost my Has s/he gone/seen/written etc.
Expressing obligation	You must/mustn't /have to/ought to/should....