



Here is a list of concepts that your child should know at age 3. Try to use this language often to model and to encourage your child to use it. The more they hear and use this language the more confident they will become.

What they understand	Example	What they use	Example
Negative no/isn't	Who has got no hat on? Who isn't wearing a jumper?	Pronouns – his/her	It is her ball. Can I go to her house?
Prepositions – in, under, in front, behind	Put the toy in the box. Look under the bed. Stand in front of the mirror. Is it behind the couch?	Past tense –ed for regular past tense words	washed, brushed, cooked. I washed the dishes. I brushed the sand up.
Identify and name common colours	red, yellow, blue, green, orange, brown, pink, black, white, purple	Answers why questions from a picture	Why is the little girl crying? "Because she dropped her ice cream."
Where questions	Where do you eat your lunch? Where do you put your coat?	Answers what questions	What swims? "Fish." What roars? "Lion."
Pronouns– he/she	What is he/she doing?	Comparatives –to show a comparison e.g. big, bigger, biggest	"That teddy is bigger than that one." That teddy is the smallest."
Senses – know what we hear, see and smell with.	What do you see with? (points to eyes)	Opposites – recognise opposite pairs	hot/cold, wet/dry, big/small, day/night.
Amounts – many/few	Who has many sweets? Which tree only has a few leaves?		
Length – long/short	Find a long sock. Who has short hair?		
Order – first/last	Who is first in line? Who will be last to finish their tea?		

Speech and Language concepts in Nursery



The children would be expected to know the following concepts between ages 4 and 5.

What they understand	Example	What they use	Example
When questions	When do you brush your teeth? When do you go to sleep?	Prepositions – in front/behind	Where did you find your car? “It was behind the telly.”
After	What did you do after school?	Emotion words	Angry, scared, excited, worried.
Either	Would you like either a banana or an apple?	Answers why questions (not in a context)	Why do we live in a house? Why do we brush our teeth?
		Correct ending – est	Longest, biggest, shortest, softest.