

**DOMAIN 5: COMMUNICATION, LANGUAGE, AND LITERACY****SUB-DOMAIN: LANGUAGE****GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX****GOAL 53: CHILDREN DEMONSTRATE PROGRESSION IN GRAMMAR AND SYNTAX.**

Age Range	Developmental Growth	Child Indicators	Caregiver Strategies
<p><b>16 to 38 Months</b></p>	<p>Moves from using simple words to more complex word order, word combinations, and word endings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uses words and phrases.</li> <li>▪ Uses primary pattern of noun plus verb.</li> <li>▪ Experiments with word endings such as ing, regular plural using s, past tenses using ed, and possessives using 's.</li> <li>▪ Generalizes word endings for plural (e.g. "mouses").</li> <li>▪ Uses negation in phrase form (e.g. "No milk." "Not open.").</li> <li>▪ Uses adjectives with appropriate placement.</li> <li>▪ Increases phrases from two words to three and four words.</li> <li>▪ Uses three to four-word sentences with noun and verb.</li> <li>▪ Uses simple questions in speech, but may not use correct grammar.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage child to use words to express needs and wants.</li> <li>▪ Talk, sign, sing, and read to child.</li> <li>▪ Expand child's sentences with descriptive responses (e.g. child says, "ball," respond, "Here is the red ball.").</li> <li>▪ Model simple sentences.</li> <li>▪ Encourage use of pronouns from child's point of view (e.g. "I want milk" rather than, "Susie wants milk.").</li> <li>▪ Speak with child in complete sentences using correct grammar.</li> <li>▪ Engage child in conversations that require more than a single word response.</li> <li>▪ Read books from child's home language and in other languages, if possible.</li> <li>▪ When asking child questions, make sure to wait long enough for child to answer. Some children need more time to understand questions and put together words.</li> <li>▪ Recognize that dual language learners may mix words from different languages in the same sentence. Provide play opportunities that encourage children to engage in conversation with one another.</li> <li>▪ To help children put meaning to their words, encourage children to tell stories about their family life and daily activities.</li> <li>▪ While sitting with child during meals and snacks facilitate and model conversation using complete sentences.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Engage child in a game using a small stuffed animal to demonstrate prepositions while saying, "The teddy bear is in the box," or "The teddy bear is beside the chair."</li></ul>
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