Older Preschoolers

Receptive Language (Listening)	**Young children attend to, comprehend, and respond to increasingly complex language.** 1 Follow multistep directions especially when these are familiar activities (e.g., steps in getting ready to play outdoors) 2 Demonstrate an understanding of complex statements having 1 or 2 phrases (e.g., Please put the toothbrush in the box under the sink) 3 Demonstrate an understanding of different language forms such as questions and exclamations 4 Demonstrate through conversation comprehension of more complex vocabulary (i.e., abstract concepts and words beyond everyday vocabulary)
Expressive Language (Speaking)	**Young children use increasingly complex vocabulary and grammar to express their thoughts, feelings, and ideas.** 1 Use sentences with more complex grammatical structures when speaking (e.g., embedded clauses, such as “My teacher, who likes dogs, is nice” 2 Engage in storytelling 3 Combine 5-8 words into sentences. 4 Use different forms of language for different purposes 5 Use abstract and increasingly detailed and varied vocabulary when speaking (e.g., use “turquoise” rather than” blue” or “I want to fly into space when I grow up”)
Social Rules of Language	**Young children initiate and maintain conversations with others while developing knowledge and use of the social rules of language.** 1 Listen and respond on topic during longer conversations with others and in group discussions 2 Use simpler language when talking with younger children 3 Initiate conversations with others and maintain topic of conversation 2-4 turns 4 If misunderstood may simply repeat the same sentence rather than trying a different way of conveying the message