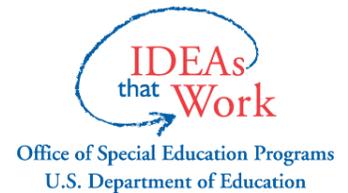




# Preschool Language Scales—Fifth Edition (PLS-5): Crosswalk to The Three Child Outcomes

Updated February 25, 2026 — <https://ectacenter.org/eco/pages/crosswalks.asp>

The ECTA Center is a program of the FPG Child Development Institute of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, funded through cooperative agreement number H326P220002 from the Office of Special Education Programs, U.S. Department of Education. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the Department of Education's position or policy.



Project Officer: Julia Martin Eile

## About the PLS-5

- **Publisher:** [Pearson](#)
- **Cost:** \$466
- **Age range:** Birth to 7 years, 11 months
- **Purpose:** PLS-5 offers comprehensive developmental language assessment with items that range from pre-verbal, interaction-based skills to emerging language to early literacy.
- **Skill areas included:**
  - Attention
  - Play
  - Gesture
  - Vocal Development
  - Semantics
  - Language Structure
  - Integrative Language Skills
  - Emergent Literacy Skills
- **Time to Administer:** 45–60 minutes
- **Scored:** Yes
- **Age Norms:** Yes
- **Age Ranges for Items:** Yes
- **Frequency:** Can re-test when:
  1. The child no longer remembers test items or responses from previous administrations
  2. The examiner determines the child made progress since last administration
  3. The child's age at testing results in use of the next-age norms table for scoring
- **Standardized Tasks:** Yes
- **Based on Observations in Natural Settings:** No for ages 3:0+; Yes for some items birth through age 2:11
- **Instructions Related to Parent Role:** Yes
- **Reliability Data:** Yes
- **Validity Data:** Yes
- **Web-Based Data Entry:** No
- **Electronic Scoring:** No
- **Languages Other Than English:** Spanish
- **Administered By:** Professionals (teacher, speech pathologist, etc.)
- **Publisher Training:** Yes (webinars)

## The Three Child Outcomes and PLS-5 Items

This table shows how the PLS-5 items map to the [three child outcomes](#):

- **Outcome 1:** Positive Social-Emotional Skills (including social relationships)
- **Outcome 2:** Acquisition and Use of Knowledge and Skills
- **Outcome 3:** Use of Appropriate Behaviors to Meet Needs

Subtest	Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3
<b>Auditory Comprehension</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1</li> <li>• 2</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 14</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-5</li> <li>• 7-13</li> <li>• 15-65</li> </ul>	—
<b>Expressive Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4</li> <li>• 6</li> <li>• 8</li> <li>• 9</li> <li>• 12</li> <li>• 13</li> <li>• 19</li> <li>• 22</li> <li>• 25</li> <li>• 28</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2</li> <li>• 3</li> <li>• 5</li> <li>• 7</li> <li>• 10</li> <li>• 11</li> <li>• 14-18</li> <li>• 20</li> <li>• 21</li> <li>• 23</li> <li>• 26-67</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1</li> <li>• 24</li> <li>• 28</li> </ul>