

# Speech and Language Development

## 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

- vocabulary
  - knowledge of more complex antonyms, synonyms (joined/connected), multiple-meaning words, figurative expressions
  - able to give a mature definition (category + essential attributes)
  - uses newly learned vocab in discussions
- syntax/morphology
  - adult-like grammar and word order
  - use affixes/base words for meaning
  - use of more advanced constructions (relative clauses, adverbial clauses, subordinating conjunctions, etc)
- pragmatics
  - easily negotiates social realm
  - small talk, make introductions, use the phone/email
  - referential communication (perspective taking) – give clear instructions, summaries, provide background, etc.
- higher-level skills
  - cause/effect, inferencing (going beyond what is directly stated), fact/opinion, more advance perspective taking (step out of own shoes), subclassification