



How to Complete the MacArthur Communicative Development Inventory: Words and Gestures

- Observe your child over a period of a few days in a variety of activities and situations, like bath time, playtime, mealtime, etc.
- In Part I of the inventory, which begins on the first page, check off the words and phrases that your child understands in Sections A and B.
- In Section C, which begins at the top of page 2, check off each word that your child “Understands” (but doesn’t say), or “Understands and Says.” **Be sure to check off every word your child uses whether he or she is pronouncing it correctly or not.**
- If your child consistently uses the same sound or sounds to stand for a word, check off the word under “Understands and Says” and write in what your child says. As an example, if your child says “nuh” for “milk,” check off “Understands and Says” beside the word “milk” in the Food and Drink section and write in “nuh” beside the word.
- Do not check off “Understands and Says” for words that your child repeats immediately after you say the word, but please make a note of these words on the back page of this inventory under “Other Comments.”
- Complete Part II of the inventory — Actions and Gestures.

