

HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP EARLY LANGUAGE

BABY:

6 months:

- Be face-to-face with your baby when you talk and play together.
- Talk to your baby when you wash, dress or feed him.
- Repeat your baby's sounds and actions.
- Play simple games (e.g. peek-a-boo).
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes.
- Read to your baby.



12 months:

- Use actions and gestures to help your baby understand what you are saying.
- Name objects your baby is looking at and playing with.
- Talk to him (using short sentences) about things you do and see during daily routines.
- Take turns making sounds or animal noises.
- Let your baby touch and hold books while you point and name pictures.
- Use real words instead of baby talk (e.g. "give me" instead of "ta ta").

TODDLER:

18 months:

- Repeat what your child says. Imitate what she does. Then, add a word or action.
- Name the objects, animals and people he sees. Describe what he does.
- Talk about what you are doing together.
- Give your child time to "talk" with you.
- Give him simple directions to follow - "Go find your red boots".
- Engage in pretend play with your child (e.g. help her feed her doll or put gas in the car).



2 years:

- Look at your child when she talks to you.
- Praise your child's efforts to talk.
- Listen to him - he wants you to hear his new sounds, words and ideas.
- Repeat what your child says and add a new word.
- Talk to your child about new places and experiences, before you go, while you are there and when you get home.
- Use lots of different words when you talk to her (e.g. "behind", "splashing", "happy", "big").
- Help him play with other children - at the library, playgroups, park.
- Read books that are predictable and repetitive - pause to give her a chance to fill in the words and phrases.

