



HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP EARLY LANGUAGE

6 months:

- Be face-to-face with your baby when you talk and play together.
- Talk to your baby about what he is holding, playing with or what you are doing.
- Copy your baby's sounds and actions.
- Talk slowly and use lots of expression.
- Play simple games (e.g. peek-a-boo).
- Sing songs and nursery rhymes and read to your baby.

12 months:

- Wait for your child to make a sound or say a word and respond with a word or a smile.
- Use gestures to help your child understand what you are saying.
- Name objects your baby is looking at and playing with.
- Use simple language to talk about what you or your child is doing (e.g. Put on your shoe vs. Let's find a shoe and put it on!).
- Let your child touch books while you point and name pictures.
- Take turns making sounds or animal noises.

18 months:

- Imitate what your child says or does, then add a word or gesture.
- Name items your child is playing with and describe what is happening.
- 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).
- Model correct grammar for your child.

2 years:

- Add a new word to what your child says (e.g. Child: "Red apple"; Caregiver: "Yummy red apple")
- Praise your child's efforts to talk.
- Use a variety of different words when talking to your child (e.g. "behind", "big", "splash", "happy").
- Repeat what your child says and model correct sounds without requiring them to say it again (e.g. Child: "Tootie"; Parent: "Cookie").

For more information visit www.onekidsplace.ca