



HOW TO 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 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)
- 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 (e.g., "Go find your red boots")
- Engage in pretend play with your child (e.g., help her feed her doll)
- Model correct grammar for your child

2 years

- Add a new word to what your child says (e.g., Child: "red apple"; You: "yummy red apple")
- Praise your child's efforts to talk
- Use a variety of different words when talking to your child
- Repeat what your child says and model correct sounds without requiring them to say it again

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT US TODAY!