

Communication

Activities to Help Your Toddler Grow and Learn

Your toddler is beginning to enjoy language and words. She has many new words now and is beginning to put two words together for simple sentences. She looks at you when you are talking to her; she says “hi” and “bye,” and she points to things she wants. She also enjoys singing and will try to sing her favorite songs.



Chatter Stretchers

Your toddler may use single words for requests, such as “juice” when he wants a drink. Help him stretch his sentence by saying it for him: “Would you like some juice? Say, ‘I want juice, please.’” Praise him when he attempts to make the sentence longer.

What Happened Today?

When you get home from an outing, ask your toddler to tell someone else about what happened or what the two of you saw: “Tell Grandpa about the horse we saw.” Help her if you need to, but let her tell as much as she can.

“Help Me” Game

Ask your toddler to help you by giving him simple directions, such as “Give Daddy his book,” “Can you get my shoe?” or “Could you bring me a diaper?” You may need to point with your finger to help him in the beginning. Be sure to say, “Thank you,” when he helps.

Animal Sounds

Teach your toddler the sounds that animals make. Read books about baby animals, and play with your toddler by making the baby animal sounds. Later, pretend you are the animal’s parent and your toddler is the baby animal. Call each other with animal sounds. This game can be a lot of silly fun.

Read, Read, Read

Find times to “read” throughout the day. You can point to pictures and words, and your child will begin to learn what words are about. At the grocery store, point to and read signs to your child. At a restaurant, let your child “read” a menu. At home, help her “read” magazines by looking at pictures together and talking about them.

Treasure Box

Put together a treasure box of safe, everyday items that are interesting to explore and feel—plastic cups, a soft sock, a little ball, a hairbrush, a small shoe. When your child pulls something out of the box, say, “Look, you found a soft blue sock” or “That sponge is squishy.” Use new language for your child, and change items in the box every few days.

Notes:



Don't Forget! Activities should be supervised at all times by an adult. Any material, food, or toy given to a young child should be reviewed for safety.