



Communication

Activities to Help Your Toddler Grow and Learn



Your child can talk about many things and can follow simple directions. She will make mistakes with her grammar, saying “foots” instead of “feet,” for example. Your child can tell you what’s happening. She’s using longer sentences now. Talk about what happened during the day. Read to your child every day. She might even pretend to read favorite books by herself, using the words you have read to her.

Reading Magazines Talk about the pictures in ordinary household magazines. Find pictures of household items that your child will recognize, such as toothpaste, soap, diapers, pets, or cars. Point to the picture and ask, “What is this?” “Do we have this at home?”

Silly Me Your child will have fun if you pretend you don’t know what things really are. Point to the toothpaste and ask your child, “Is that the soap?” Let him tell you what it really is. Act surprised. Your child will enjoy “teaching” you the right name of things.

Bandage Game Make pretend bandages using tape or stickers. Ask your child, “Where is your cut? Where shall I put this?” Get your child to name as many body parts as possible, and put a bandage on each part. You can wash the bandage off during bath time. This game can also be played with a doll or stuffed animal.

Let’s Put Things Away When putting away food after going to the market or putting away gardening tools after planting seeds, ask your child to help. Tell her, “Put the butter in the refrigerator” or “Put the shovel in the pail.” You’ll have fun giving some silly directions, too, such as “Put the lemons under the chair.” Use words such as “up” and “down.”

What’s Going On? When reading books or magazines, ask your child to tell you what’s happening in a picture: “What’s the baby doing?” “What is the dog doing?” Then, listen carefully to your child’s interesting story.

What’s Your Name? Play this silly name game. When you greet your child, act as if you don’t know who he is. Say, “Hello, little boy. What’s your name?” When he tells you, greet him with happy surprise. “Oh, you’re my little boy! I’m so happy to see you!”



30–36 months