



Communication

Activities to Help Your Child Grow and Learn



Your child's communication skills are growing and blossoming. She is learning how to have conversations with people she knows and is starting conversations as well as responding to people's questions. She is learning different parts of speech and using more complicated sentences; for example, when describing something she might say, "It was a very big brown dog." She may use very silly language and laugh at her own jokes.

- Animal Guessing** This is a game the whole family can play. Cut out some pictures of animals from a magazine. Turn the pictures upside down and have one person at a time choose a picture. The other people playing ask yes/no questions to guess what the animal is (e.g., "Does the animal swim?" "Is it bigger than a cat?"). When someone guesses the animal correctly, it's another person's turn to choose an animal card and let the others guess.
- Bedtime Memories** When it's time to go to sleep each night, have a soft talk with your child. Whisper to him, "What was your favorite thing that happened today?" Ask what else happened. Share your favorite event, too.
- Reading Adventures** Read to your child every day. Read slowly and with interest. Use a finger to follow the words. Stop reading at times, and encourage your child to talk about the pictures and the story. Make this a special and fun time for you and your child.
- Moonbeams** On a night when the moon is visible, find a place to lie down or sit outside with your child and look at the moon and stars. What do you see? Can you connect the stars to make a picture? Can you make out a face on the moon? Ponder what it would be like to be an astronaut flying into space in a rocket. What do you think it is like on the moon? What would you do there? How would you feel about being so far away from earth?
- Rhymes and Rhythm** While chanting or singing a nursery rhyme, have your child tap it out on a drum, the bottom of a pot, or an oatmeal box. This musical activity can be made more challenging and interesting by adding new instruments such as bells, spoons, or shakers (small plastic containers filled with beans). Have some noisy fun with friends!
- At the Office** Set up a little office for your child with notebooks, a toy phone, a computer keyboard, pencils and pens, a ruler, a calculator, and a calendar. Add some envelopes, paper, and stickers. Encourage her to pretend to go to work, write letters, type messages, and make notes for friends. Pretend with her; call her on the phone and ask her questions.



54–60 months