



Communication

Activities to Help Your Toddler Grow and Learn



Your toddler is learning language very quickly and will imitate what he hears, good or bad. He is using different types of words and putting them together in short phrases. Most of his words are understandable. He is starting to sing simple songs.

Sock Puppet Put your hand in a clean sock and make it talk. "Hi, my name is Joe. I am visiting you. What is your name?" Your child might say something or want to touch the puppet. Keep the conversation going.

Construction Time Collect materials to make a pretend airport, street, or neighborhood. Masking tape can be the runway or the road. Oatmeal containers can be tunnels. Cereal boxes can be buildings. Cardboard can make a ramp for cars to go up and down. Toy cars can go through the tunnel, under the bridge, or down a ramp. Use new words while your child plays.

Following Directions As you talk to your child, begin to give simple directions such as "Bring me the blue sock," or "Put your doll on the chair." At first, you might have to show your child what is blue or what "on the chair" means. Offer a lot of praise. Another game you can play is Show Me. You say, "Show me the door," and your child touches the door. Good job!

Fun with Books Find large picture books and/or magazines to look at with your child. Point to pictures and talk about what you see. Ask him, "Where's the doggie?" and have him point to a picture. Let your child "read" to someone else, like Grandpa. If your child is beginning to learn about using the toilet, this is a good time to put a small basket of potty-related books in the bathroom for him to "read."

Field Trips Your toddler will enjoy going to new places, even to a new store. This is a great time to learn new words. Talk to her about what you are seeing. "Look, that fruit is called a kiwi." "Look at that big fountain."

Sing a Song Your child will love learning simple songs such as Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star. Teach your child this song or a simple song you remember from childhood. Enjoy singing together. Later, ask your child to sing for someone else in the family.



20–24 months