

Facilitating Language Development

2 - 3 years

The 2 - 3 year old child is now using language to talk and learn about the real world.

During this period your child learns to express an opinion and to converse with you. He/she will understand short sentences and is able to follow simple directions.

He/she can answer who/what questions, for example "What are you doing?"

Your child is becoming more independent and can carry out simple tasks for you, uses language while playing and likes listening to stories.

Your child wants to be actively involved in everyday situations.

Developing Your Child's Language Involves The Following

Allowing you child to *talk* about a topic and *take time* to *listen* and *respond*.

Extend the conversation by *adding information about the topic*.

Play action games - e.g.

- "run to the big box"
- "clap hands and stamp your feet"

Turn-taking board games - e.g.

- what do you hear game
- Picture lotto games
- Colour matching games
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Use action nursery rhymes

Involve your child in everyday activities and you give your child the opportunity to develop language.

Read with your child everyday. When looking at books name, explain and describe the pictures.

It's good to have a daily routine, for instance singing, at bedtime.

By the time your child is 3 years old, your child will be able to converse with you and familiar adults.

S/he will *understand* lots of words and phrases including prepositions e.g. "under", adjectives e.g. big and small, pronouns e.g. "he" and answer "where" questions.

S/he will *use a bigger vocabulary*, and use 3 - 4 word sentences. S/he will use language not only to name but also to describe his ideas and feelings.

Children ask lots of questions at this stage.

YOUR CHILD LOVES TO HAVE FUN AND PLAY GAMES WITH YOU

If you have any concerns contact a Speech and Language Therapist.