

Help your child learn



Talk

Talk about what you and your child are doing, such as dressing or going for a walk.



Read

Share picture books with your child. Talk about what he is interested in.



Sing

Sing simple songs with actions. Pause before saying a word in a familiar song to see if he will say it (*Row, Row, Row your _____*).



Play

Play pretend games with your child, such as going to sleep, talking on a phone, or sweeping the floor.



Interior Health

Listen To Me Talk **By 18 Months**



Speech & Language Development

Adapted from Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services' *Talking Matters: A guide to communicating with your child.*

By 18 months

Babies learn to communicate by listening to voices and sounds.

A toddler soon learns to use words to tell you how he feels or what he wants.

Children develop at their own rate. Some children do things at a young age; some will take a little longer.

How your child communicates

Understands

- follows simple directions (*get the ball*)
- points to three body parts
- understands more words than he can say
- understands *no* and shakes his head

Expresses

- says at least 18 words that you understand (*mama, ba* for ball)
- says *no*
- asks for what he wants using sounds or words (points to a bottle and says *baba*)
- tries to repeat words

Your child should have a speech & language check if...

- He is not using at least 18 words.
- He does not make gestures or sounds like you do.
- He started to use words but stopped.

See an audiologist for concerns with hearing.

Help your child today

You and your child can meet with a speech-language pathologist.

Call your local Health Unit.