Help your child learn

Talk
Ask your child to tell you about his day (*Did you paint today?*). Talk about what's happening in your life, using words like *yesterday*, *today*, and *tomorrow*.

Read
Read longer stories and talk about how and why things happened. Ask questions about what the story meant to your child (*Have you ever done that?*).

Sing
Sing songs that include actions. Your child will enjoy funny songs that have rhyming words, such as *Down by the Bay*.

Play
Let your child dress-up and play grown-up. When playing, ask your child thinking questions (*why, how, what if*).

Interior Health

Listen To Me Talk
By 5 years

Speech & Language Development

By 5 years

Between the ages of two and five years, a child's speech and language develops a lot.

The number of words your child can say increases quickly.

His use of language increases as he begins to ask many questions during everyday activities.

He enjoys listening to stories and music.

Often he will ask you to read the same story over and over again.

How your child communicates

Understands

• understands long directions (*When Grandpa arrives, tell him I'm outside and help him takes his bag upstairs.*)
• understands many descriptive words (*soft, short, tallest, top*)
• understands concept of numbers (*Give me three forks.*)
• starts to appreciate humour

Expresses

• uses complete sentences, usually grammatically correct
• pronounces most speech sounds correctly
• explains what words mean
• talks about future, past and imaginary events
• explains how to solve a simple problem (clean up a spill)

Your child should have a speech & language check if…

• He does not use complete sentences.
• He has trouble following directions.
• He appears shy and won't interact or communicate with others.

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.