

## Help your child learn



### **Talk**

Talk about what you and your child are doing. Watch to see what she is interested in and add information (*That's a daffodil. It grows in the spring.*).



### **Read**

Read longer stories. Ask questions that encourage her to think about the story, such as *How do you think the girl feels?* or *Was that the right thing to do?*



### **Sing**

Sing songs that include actions. Your child may like silly songs that play with sounds and words, such as *Apples & Bananas* or *Willaby Wallaby Woo*.



### **Play**

Play simple board and card games to help her follow directions, count, match colors, and name pictures. For example, *Snakes & Ladders* or *Go Fish*.



Interior Health

## **Listen To Me Talk By 4 years**



## **Speech & Language Development**

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

## By 4 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.

Her use of language increases as she begins to ask many questions during everyday activities.

She enjoys listening to stories and music.

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

## How your child communicates

### ***Understands***

- follows three-step directions (*Get your boots, put them on, and go outside.*)
- understands and remembers details about a story
- can anticipate and answer the question *what do you think will happen next?*
- understands simple opposites (*hot/cold, up/down*) and concepts (*under, beside*)

### ***Expresses***

- tells stories using words, including details in a logical order
- asks many different types of questions
- uses sentences of four or more words in length (*I want to go home.*)
- can clearly make these sounds in words: T, D, K, G, Y, F
- can tell you how she feels (*I'm tired.*)

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

- She is not understood by everyone.
- She imitates words but does not seem to understand them.
- She stutters.

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.