

Help your child learn



Talk

Talk about what you and your child are doing. Repeat what she says using correct sounds and sentences (Child: *Me want dat.* Adult: *I want juice, too. I like juice.*).



Read

Read stories with pictures. Relate stories to her experiences (*You have a big teddy bear, too!*).



Sing

Sing simple songs and nursery rhymes using actions, such as *Itsy Bitsy Spider* and *Wheels on the Bus*.



Play

Play make-believe with or without toys, such as dress-up and toy garages. Make everyday routines into a game (sort laundry, clean-up).



Interior Health

Listen To Me Talk

By 3 years



Speech & Language Development

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

By 3 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 two-step directions (*Go to the kitchen and get your cup.*)
- understands the concepts of *one* and *all* (*Pick up a ball. Pick up all the balls.*)
- can put a toy *in, on,* and *under* when asked
- answers *where* and *what* questions (*Where's Mommy? What is the boy doing?*)

Expresses

- says three or more words in a sentence (*I want ball. I can play Mommy.*)
- asks *who, what, where, why* questions
- adults can understand most of what she says
- can clearly say these sounds in words: P, B, M, H, W

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

- She does not put more than two words together.
- She does not listen well.
- You cannot understand most of what she says.
- She seems frustrated when trying to talk.

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.