



# SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT



## at 2 YEARS

### **UNDERSTANDING – is the child:**

- Understanding more words than they can say (between 200 - 500 words!)
- Responding to questions correctly by saying "yes" or "no" (are you a good boy?)
- Understanding many nouns ... and action words (washing, running, jumping)
- Understanding "one", "some", "all" (as in "give me one brick", "give me all the bricks")
- Pointing to parts of the body and familiar objects ("show me your knee", "where's the ball?")
- Beginning to follow simple directions ("get your coat", "give teddy a drink")
- Responding to "where" (where's teddy?) and able to choose familiar objects from group of four (e.g.: where's the spoon?)
- Listening to simple, short stories with pictures
- Turning book page to find named picture

### **EXPRESSING**

- Using 50 or more words e.g. 'car', 'biscuit', 'juice', 'duck'
- Trying to say words or imitate words that you say, but may not always be clear
- Using one or more new words a week
- Putting two (sometimes three) words together ("daddy gone", "more milk", "want drink juice")
- Starting to use questions - "what's that?", "who that?"
- Joining in nursery rhymes
- May get frustrated when not understood, causing tantrums!

### **PLAY and SOCIAL INTERACTION**

- Enjoying nursery rhymes/joins in action songs
- Having conversations with dolls/toys
- Enjoying pretend play - feeding a baby, being an animal, filling a truck with bricks and driving it along
- Enjoying playing alone or beside other children
- Beginning to take turns with other children (run and chase games)
- Playing with a toy for at least 5 minutes
- Taking turns in conversation
- Matching single objects/toys to pictures



## **ACTIVITIES to try (aim to have lots of fun!):**

- ☀ Give your child a choice of finger rhymes or songs to sing with actions and sing along together (e.g. Wheels on the Bus; Old Macdonald had a Farm; Round and Round the Garden).
- ☀ Wait ... give your child a chance to talk. What he says might surprise you! Silence is OK too! When he is telling you about things he is doing praise him for his efforts in communicating (e.g.: “good talking”)
- ☀ Repeat what your child says in short but correct sentences. (child: "there cat". adult: "yes, there's a cat")
- ☀ Repeat newly learnt words over and over in everyday activities.
- ☀ TV alone cannot teach your child to talk. Your child needs your help to learn from TV. Sit with your child, and talk about what is happening, then guess what will happen next. Give words to the activities that your child is watching.
- ☀ At this age it is fun to begin imitating sounds of objects and animals with your child. Bark like dogs, chirp like birds, make fire engine noises, etc.
- ☀ Expand your child's world. Try to meet new people, go to new places, share books and toys with friends.
- ☀ Choose books with large, clear pictures. Make up your own story or take turns pointing to and talking about people and things in the pictures.
- ☀ Hide toys under/behind cushions, blankets and furniture. Have fun asking, "Where is the ...?"

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