

Communication

Activities to Help Your Toddler Grow and Learn



Your toddler is learning language very quickly and will imitate words he hears, good or bad. He is using different types of words and putting them together in short phrases. Most of his words are understandable. He may be starting to sing simple songs. He may also be testing the power of words by using the strong words “no” and “mine.”

Sock Puppet

Put your hand in a clean sock and make it talk: “Hi, my name is José. I am visiting you. What is your name?” Your child might say something or want to touch the puppet. Keep the conversation going. Let the puppet give your toddler a kiss!

Construction Time

Collect materials to make a pretend airport, street, or neighborhood. Masking tape can be the runway or the road. Oatmeal containers can be tunnels. Cereal boxes can be buildings. Cardboard can make a ramp for cars to go *up* and *down*. Toy cars can go *through* the tunnel, *under* the bridge, or *beside* a building. Use these new words while your child builds and plays.

Fun with Books

Find large picture books and/or magazines to look at with your child. Point to pictures and talk about what you see. Ask her, “Where’s the doggie?” and have her point to a picture. Let your child “read” to someone else, such as Grandpa. If your child is beginning to learn about using the toilet, this is a good time to put a small basket of picture books in the bathroom to “read.”

Field Trips

Your toddler will enjoy going to new places, even to a new store. This is a great time to learn new words. Talk to him about what you are seeing: “Look, that fruit is called a *mango*. Look at that big refrigerator. Put your hand on the door—it’s very *cold*.”

Sing Together

Your child will love learning simple songs such as “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” Teach your child simple songs you remember from childhood. Enjoy singing together. Later, ask your child to sing for someone else in the family.

Car Talk

Teach your child words about the car as you get in or out during the day. Talk about what you’re doing: “Let’s *open* the car door and get inside. I’m going to *buckle* your car seat. Daddy’s going to *close and lock* the door. See the *lights* go out? Do you hear the *motor*? Let’s go!” Soon your little rider will know all about the car.

Notes:



Don’t Forget! Activities should be supervised at all times by an adult. Any material, food or toy given, to a young child should be reviewed for safety.