

Communication

Activities to Help Your Child Grow and Learn



Your child now enjoys longer books and stories. She can help tell a story or make up silly stories of her own. She probably asks “why” often, not only about books but also about daily events. She can describe recent events with some detail. With a little help, she can place the events in order. She may be reading familiar signs in the neighborhood and may know what words and letters are. She knows her first and last name and probably recognizes her name in print.

Talking Book

Let your child cut out interesting pictures from a magazine or newspaper. Glue the pictures, one per page, in a notebook or on blank pages stapled together. Look through this picture book and ask your child to talk about the pictures: “Can you tell me about this picture? What colors do you see? Is that doggie happy or sad?” See if your child can tell you two or three things about each picture.

Say What You Can See

Riding the bus or in the car, look for things in a certain category. Find things with wheels, things that are tall, or things of different colors. Choose the category ahead of time or let your child pick. You might say, “Let’s see how many animals we see.” You and your child can point out live animals or animals on signs or billboards.

My Own Stories

Encourage your child to begin to make up stories of her own. Write them on a piece of paper as she tells them to you. She might like to draw or paint a picture to go along with the story. You can put these stories in a folder to make a book titled, “My Own Stories.”

Fill in the Blank

When reading familiar stories or singing familiar songs, leave a word out and pause to let your child fill in the word or even the sound: “Twinkle, twinkle...[little star].”

Do What I Do

Do a simple action, such as clapping your hands. Tell your child, “Do what I do.” Add a second motion such as patting your stomach. Have your child do it with you first, then by himself. Now add a third motion. See if your child can remember all three: clap, clap, pat, pat, wink, wink. Add more as long as your child can remember them and you both are having fun!

Rhyming Game

Try this little rhyming game. Say a word, such as *bake*. Ask your child to say a word that rhymes, such as *cake*. Now it’s your turn: say *rake*. Help your child if she can’t think of a word: “How about *take*?” When you run out of rhyming words, try another: “How about *cat*?” Sometimes you can put two words together: “Fat cat!” Have fun!

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.