

Communication

Activities to Help Your Child Grow and Learn



Your child is learning new words every day, and he enjoys playing with language by rhyming words. He may use very silly language and laugh at his own jokes. He uses a lot of inflection (changes in his voice) when he describes events. He knows the difference between day and night, today and tomorrow. He can carry out three or more simple directions. He knows that printed letters and words mean something to others.

Putting on a Play

Create a story or a play with a few puppets. Have a conversation with them, taking turns asking and answering questions. Put on a puppet show of a familiar story or folktale. Talk about the characters, assign roles, and enjoy a wonderful play!

Adventure Pals

Take a special trip someplace new. Visit a museum, a park or outdoor area, a store, or a library. Plan with your child. Talk about what you will be seeing and doing. After you come home, ask questions about what she saw and what she did. Encourage her to tell other family members about the outing. If you have a camera, take photos to show others what you saw on your adventure.

Dramatic Storytime

Read a favorite story to your child. Ask him what happened at the beginning, middle, and end. Have your child act out the story and be different characters. If you read a story about farm animals, he could pretend to be a cow, chicken, pig, or horse. Encourage him to act out the beginning, the middle, and the end of the story.

All About Me

Have your child make a book about herself. Staple or put together several pieces of paper with tape, yarn, or ribbon. She can glue pictures of family members on a *family* page and things she likes on a *favorite things* page. She can trace her hand or draw pictures. Have your child plan her book, make it, then "read" you her story or tell you about each picture.

Cleanup Helper

Your child will enjoy helping you around the house. At mealtime, he could help set the table. Ask him to help sweep an area or put toys away. Be sure to allow plenty of time. In the morning, your child can put his own nightclothes into their special place. Look around for little tasks in your own home. Your child will be proud of helping the family!

I Can, I Can, I Can!

Challenge your child to remember and do three things in a single direction. Ask your child to go into the bathroom, flush the toilet, and bring your toothbrush! You can also ask her to find your fuzzy blanket, wrap it around a book, and put it on the sofa. Or ask her to find a shoe, put a block in it, and put it under the table: "Can you do it? Yeah!"

Cloudy Friends

This activity is fun on a day when the sky is filled with puffy clouds. Go outside and lie on your back and take turns pointing out different cloud shapes and patterns. Ask your child what the clouds look like: "Look. There's an ice cream cone!" What do you see?"

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.