

# Communication

## Activities to Help Your Child Grow and Learn



Your child's communication skills are growing. She is learning how to have conversations with people she knows. She can start conversations as well as respond to people's questions. She is learning different parts of speech and using more complex sentences. When describing something, she might say, "It was a very big brown dog." She may use silly language and laugh at her own jokes.

### Animal Crossing

This game is for the whole family. Cut pictures of animals from a magazine. Turn the pictures face down. Have one person choose a picture. The other people ask yes-or-no questions to guess what the animal is: "Does the animal swim? Is it bigger than a cat?" After someone guesses correctly, another person chooses a picture and lets the others guess.

### Bedtime Memories

At bedtime each night, have a soft talk with your child. Whisper to him, "What was your favorite thing that happened today?" Ask what else happened. Share your favorite event, too.

### Reading Adventures

Read to your child every day. Read slowly and with interest, with expression and voices. Use a finger to follow the words. Stop reading at times. Encourage your child to talk about the pictures and the story. "Who is your favorite character? What happened in the middle of the story?" Make this a special together time!

### Moonbeams

When the moon is visible, find a place to look at the moon and stars with your child. Explore your child's imagination: "What do you see? Can you connect the stars to make a picture? What do you think it is like on the moon? What would you do there? How would you feel about being so far away from Earth?"

### Strike Up the Band

Have your child chant or sing a nursery rhyme and tap it out on a drum, the bottom of a pot, or a small box. Make this activity more challenging and interesting by adding new instruments such as bells, spoons, or shakers. Have some noisy fun with friends!

### At the Office

Set up an office for your child with notebooks, a toy phone, an old keyboard, pencils and pens, a ruler, a calculator, and a calendar. Add envelopes, paper, and stickers. Encourage her to pretend to go to work, write letters, type messages, and make notes. Pretend with her. Call on the phone and ask questions: "When will the mail come today?"

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.