

# Helping Kids Discover and Develop Language

## 1 1/2 YEARS

### 1. The child uses up to 20 words.

#### SUGGESTIONS:

- use daily routines to introduce words (e.g., when bathing the child, introduce words such as: "boat", "water", "pour", "bubbles", and "splash")
- use names of objects with which your child is familiar and add new words daily
- use the same words in different ways (e.g., "roll ball", "throw ball", "kick ball")

### 2. The child uses connected sounds (i.e., jargon) that sound like sentences in a foreign language.

Jargon is often accompanied by gestures. The child will often point to objects and make up names for them.

#### SUGGESTIONS:

- give your child the appropriate names of objects
- don't ignore your child's attempts at communicating. Instead, try to understand his/her message.

### 3. The child recognizes the names of 1 to 3 body parts.

#### SUGGESTIONS:

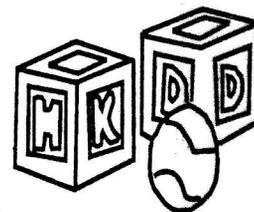
- touch your own body parts and your child's body parts and name them
- name the body parts of dolls and stuffed animals
- have your child point to his/her body parts while looking in the mirror
- associate body parts with their functions when giving your child simple directions (e.g., "lick the spoon with your tongue"; "clap your hands"; "kick the ball with your foot"; and "touch the ball with your hand")
- use daily routines (e.g., eating, bathing, dressing) to talk about various body parts
- sing the song, "Head and shoulders, knees and toes..."
- draw a picture of a face and name its parts



### 4. The child begins to understand such categories as food, animals, and clothing.

#### SUGGESTIONS:

- start a picture book for your child by pasting pictures of objects under various categories (e.g., people, toys, clothes, and animals) in his/her "special" book
- as your child learns new categories, add new pictures
- use picture books, colouring books or posters to talk about various categories (e.g., while looking at a picture of children playing in a playground, point out the play equipment, people, toys, and clothes)
- take your child to places such as the grocery store, the zoo, the park, or the toy store



### 5. The child uses common expressions.

The child may say "What's that?", "Allgone" or "Oh no".

#### SUGGESTION:

- use common expressions at the correct time over and over again. Repetition is good so don't worry if you say the same expression many times during the day.