

Helping Kids Discover and Develop Language

5 YEARS

1. The child develops time concepts.

The child uses and understands time concepts such as "today", "tomorrow", "morning" and "afternoon" correctly.

SUGGESTIONS:

- talk about routine events and when they occur (e.g., "You ate pancakes for breakfast **this morning**.")
- use a **calendar** to talk about what happened on a certain day and to talk about events that are coming up or that have passed (e.g., birthdays, holidays)
- after reading a story, talk to your child about what happened at the beginning, middle and end
- buy your child a **watch** and talk about time in general terms (e.g., "This morning, at 8:30, I drove you to school.")

2. The child understands "right" and "left".

SUGGESTIONS:

- talk about body parts in terms of right and left (e.g., "Lift your **left** foot.")
- write "left" and "right" on your child's shoes
- sing the "Hokey Pokey" song
- play "Mother May I" using right and left instructions
- give directions such as, "Run to the **right**", "Walk to the **left**" in play and when dancing



3. The child counts to ten.

SUGGESTIONS:

- count objects, fingers and toes
- sing "Ten Little Monkeys Jumping on the Bed"
- children's television shows such as "Sesame Street" frequently present numbers and counting in a way which appeals to children

4. The child uses past, present and future tenses.

For example, the child may say: "I walked", "I am walking", and "I will walk".

SUGGESTIONS:

- talk about upcoming events and things that you and your child will be doing (e.g., "Tomorrow, we will go see Uncle Vic.")
- talk about things your child did when he/she was 4 and things that he/she will do when he/she is 6 or 7 years of age



5. The child understands much of adult conversation including some common sayings such as "Time to hit the sack".

SUGGESTIONS:

- give an explanation for a saying until you are convinced that your child understands it (e.g., "Time to hit the sac. Time to go to bed.")
- take time to talk with your child. Talk about things that interest your child.

