

Language Development

When playing with children, ask:
“How, When, Where, What, Why, Who?”



Milestones for Language Development

12-15 month old babies

- Wave bye-bye
- Say “mama”, “dada”, and one other word

15-18 month old babies

- Use at least 3 other words besides “mama” and “dada”
- Point to pictures or objects you name

2 year old

- Says several single words
- Uses simple phrases
- Uses 2 to 4 word sentences

3 year old

- Understands most of what is said and 75% of speech is understandable
- Speaks in complete sentence of 3 to 5 words
- Understands concepts of “now”, “soon”, and “later”

4 year old

- Uses a 1,500 word vocabulary; speaks in relatively complex sentences
- Understands number and space concepts-more, less, bigger, in, under, behind
- Grasps the concept of past, present, and future but does not understand the duration of time

5 year old

- Speaks fluently; correctly uses plurals, pronouns, tenses
- Very interested in words and language; seeks knowledge
- Understands and names opposites

Educational activities that encourage language

- Books
- Stacking toys (measuring cups, spoons, pots)
- Puzzles
- Blocks (various types and sizes)
- Balls (various sizes)
- Dress-up clothing
- Kitchen set
- Dolls and doll houses
- Cars/trucks/trains
- Farm set
- Doctor/vet set
- Water and sand tables and toys
- Ride-on vehicles
- Magnetic letters
- Dry erase markers and board
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Playdough
- Paint, crayons, paper, pens, markers
- Meal times
- Music, singing, and dancing



Correlation

Learning occurs during the back and forth interaction between staff (or parent) and child.

Introducing new vocabulary is key in developing greater language ability.