

Keys to Developing Language at 18 Months



LABEL: Label items and actions during daily activities.

- “Up”, “bottle”, “daddy”, “mommy”, “more”, “book”, “all gone”, “bye-bye”

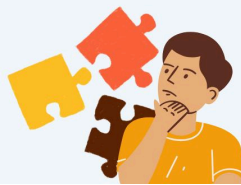


MODEL SOUNDS AROUND THE HOUSE

- “The cow says *moo*”, “the car goes *vroom-vroom*”



IMITATE: Imitate your child’s sounds or facial expressions. This shows your interest and acknowledges their communication attempt!



INTERPRET: If your child gestures or tries to say a word, interpret the meaning. Put a word or phrase to their attempt to communicate.

- Child “Baba” (for bottle). Caregiver: “Yes, here is your bottle!”



COMMENT: Attach language to what you or your child is doing to expose them to meaningful and simple language.

- “You are washing your hands.” “You are eating an apple.”
- When cooking: “I am hungry.” “Mom is cooking.” “Mmm good eggs.”
- During bath time: “Look at the bubbles”, “wash and dry”, “all clean.”



EXPAND: Expand on what your child says. Model two-word utterances

- Child: “Doggy.” Caregiver: “Big doggy. Doggy is barking.”



USE NEW WORDS IN DIFFERENT SETTINGS

- At home: “Where is your car?” When going somewhere: “The car is in the garage.” While driving: “That car is red.”



USE GESTURES: Use actions to teach your child to imitate, including clapping, blowing a kiss, and finger games like Pat-a-Cake, Peek-a-Boo and The Itsy-Bitsy Spider.



SHARE BOOKS: Read with your child. Label and point to new words and pictures. You don’t have to follow what the book says. Make it fun!