



ACTIVITIES TO ENCOURAGE  
SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT  
2 TO 4 YEARS

- ★ Use good speech that is clear and simple for your child to model.
- ★ Repeat what your child says indicating that you understand. Build and expand on what was said. "Want juice? I have juice. I have apple juice. Do you want apple juice?"
- ★ Use baby talk only if needed to convey the message and when accompanied by the adult word. "It is time for din-din. We will have dinner now."
- ★ Make a scrapbook of favorite or familiar things by cutting out pictures. Group them into categories, such as things to ride on, things to eat, things for dessert, fruits, and things to play with. Create silly pictures by mixing and matching pictures. For example, glue a picture of a dog behind a wheel of a car. Talk about what is wrong with the picture and ways to "fix" it. Count items pictured in the book.
- ★ Help your child understand and ask questions. Play the yes-no game. Ask questions such as "Are you a boy?" "Are you Marty?" "Can a pig fly?" Encourage your child to make up questions and try to fool you.
- ★ Ask questions that require a choice. "Do you want an apple or an orange?" "Do you want to wear your red or blue shirt?"
- ★ Expand vocabulary. Name body parts, and identify what you do with them. "This is my nose. I can smell flowers, brownies, popcorn, and soap."
- ★ Sing simple songs and recite nursery rhymes to show the rhythm and pattern of speech.
- ★ Place familiar objects in a container. Have your child remove the object and tell you what it is called and how to use it. "This is my ball. I bounce it. I play with it."
- ★ Use Photographs of familiar people and places, and retell what happened or make-up a story.