

Helping Kids Discover and Develop Language

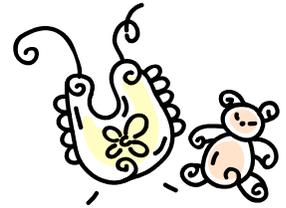
12 Months

1. The child says his or her first word and *may* have 2 to 5 words.

The child's first words may not sound perfect or may not be used correctly. For example, the child may use "dog" to refer to any four-legged animal. With practice, this production will become clearer and will be used appropriately.

SUGGESTIONS:

- Hold the object in front of your child and name it before giving it to them. This allows your child to see your tongue and lips move as you make the sounds.
- Name objects your child shows interest in
- Always use the same name for the same object
- Use simple names (e.g. use "car" instead of "automobile")
- Use specific names for toys (e.g. use "fluffy" for the infant's stuffed rabbit)
- Repeat the same word over and over again (e.g. "oh truck, nice truck, big truck")
- Follow your child's lead (i.e. play with toys your child wants to play with)
- When speaking to your child use simple language (1-2 word sentences at the most)
- Stress new words in your speech



2. The child combines lots of sounds as though talking (eg. "abada baduh abee").

3. The child follows simple one-step directions.

For example, the child responds appropriately to "Put that down", "Come to Mommy", and "Give it to Daddy"

SUGGESTIONS:

- Accompany your commands with gestures to provide more visual information
- Keep your commands short or break them down into small parts

4. The child gestures and/or vocalizes to indicate wants and needs.

For example, he/she may ask for common objects such as a ball by name and/or may gesture toward the object, wave "bye bye", shakes head "no".

SUGGESTIONS:

- Use gestures to accompany your own vocalizations
- Occasionally show an object, wait expectantly to prompt your child to ask for it
- Set up situations so necessary objects are missing (e.g. bring out juice container but put no glasses on table)