

Share

- Always share topics that interest your child.

Play

- Games that allow for turn taking such as Peek-a-boo, finger rhymes, singing songs, kicking ball.

Nursery Rhymes and songs

- The child likes from the very beginning to share simple rhymes and songs with you.

LISTEN

> **SPEAK**

> **LISTEN**

By the end of the first year, your child will:

- Respond to his/her own name.
- Understand some words and simple phrases.
- Express him/herself by babbling, using gestures and some single words.

**YOUR CHILD LOVES
TO HAVE FUN
AND PLAY GAMES
WITH YOU**

If you have any concerns contact a Speech and Language Therapist.



Facilitating Language Development

Birth - 12 months

A newborn baby is able to communicate with

Body language
Eye contact
Smile

A baby is born with an ability to receive language signals but also with a need to interact with another person.

The baby recognises the voice of the mother from the womb and moves to the rhythm of her spoken language.

The baby is communicating from the first week of life and the parent encourages this communication through everyday experiences; feeding, nursing, changing diapers all allow you to have fun, play and interact with your baby.

So what happens in these everyday situations?

For example when changing your child's diaper:

You *Look* at your child who engages in *Eye Contact* with you.

You *Listen* and *Interact* when s/he *Cries*.

You *Interpret* s/he is not happy.

You *Respond* with comforting tones/words.

This interaction gives you the opportunity to have fun and play with your child, explaining what you are doing in a short and simple way. The child then grows to understand the world and that communication is rewarding and fun.

Creating the foundations for your child's skill to develop involves the following:

Listen and Respond

- When your child is expressing with body language, sounds and words.

Time

- Give the child time to reply, as you will always get a reaction. Remember younger children react slower.

Interpret

- It is better to try to interpret the child's message rather than to pretend you understand.

Short and Simple

- Make your sentences short and simple.