

## Developing Your Child's Language Involves the Following:

Look at your child's gestures.

Listen to your child's words.

Always try to interpret what your child means.

Imitate and repeat what your child is saying. Give your child a good model.

Share and make communication fun for your child.

By the time your child is two years old, your child will be able to communicate with gestures and verbally.

Playing is learning for your child. Your child will enjoy playing with you.

Your child will understand quite a lot.

Your child will say many words.

Your child will start using 2-3 word phrases: "go car, dad go car".

Have Fun

> Play Games

> Use Simple Rhymes and Songs

to Facilitate Your Child's Language And Communication.

**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**

**1 - 2 years**

The one year old child is an active partner in communication. The child uses non-verbal and verbal means of communication.

**Non-verbal communication** is still evident:

- making a request by reaching
- dislike by pushing away
- vocalizing to draw attention to self
- showing rejection by shaking head
- have pleasure by smiling/gurgling
- disappearance by waving goodbye

### **Expressive Language:**

Expressive language/verbal communication is developing. The child starts to communicate using one word. He/she can say for example "mama" "dada" for calling, "no" for refusal, "that" for possession, "up" for ordering and "there" for location.

All children will not be able to pronounce the words correctly at this stage. *What* your child says is important, not *how* they say it.

Pretend play begins to develop with every day objects e.g. brushing teddy and feeding dolly with a spoon.

Your child responds to simple commands, has awareness of other's feelings, speech becomes more intelligible and s/he is able to point to common objects and pictures.

Your Child Is Becoming A Partner In Everyday Situations.

### **Developing the Communication Interaction**

At mealtimes there are lots of opportunities for your child to develop language.

The child looks at you, points to the food and says, "dinner".

You respond and repeat what your child has said and add "we are having dinner".

If the child points only, you name the object e.g. "food".

If the child says "up" for "cup" you repeat and give the correct name, "cup".

You can also play a game of "tidy up" and get your child to give you the objects he has used when eating, to develop his understanding and vocabulary.