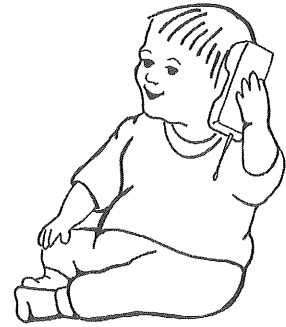




Communication

Activities to Help Your Child Grow and Learn



Your child is learning to use complete sentences to tell you all about what's happening. He also can follow more than one direction at a time. He has probably learned both his first and last name and can tell you if you ask. He loves to have conversations with a friend or maybe a toy doll or bear. He has learned that a voice on the telephone really comes from a person, even though he can't see the speaker at the time, and your child is more likely to talk than just listen.

Good Night Everywhere When it's time to go to bed, give good-night kisses all over. Tell your child, "I'm going to kiss you under your arm. I'm going to kiss you on top of your head. Now I'm going to kiss you behind your ear. Good night back there! Good night everywhere!"

Who's This Person? Pretend you suddenly forgot who your child is. Say, "What's your name little girl? Is it Samantha? Is it Rosita? Do you have another name?" (When she tells you her name, you can be very happily surprised!)

Love Notes Write little notes to your child and place them here and there during the day. A note might say, "You are a very helpful brother to your baby sister. She thinks you are really special." A note on your child's toy shelf can say you noticed that the toys were put away. A note by the plate at dinnertime can say that Dad will read his favorite story at bedtime. As you read these notes to your little one, he learns that reading is fun and important.

Where the Creatures Live Help your child learn directions by asking, "Where do birds fly? Up in the sky. Where do the bugs live? Under a rock. Where do fish swim? Deep down in the water." Your child may need a little help at first, but soon she will know the answers.

Weather Person At the start of the day, ask your child to look out the window and tell you about the weather. Is it sunny? Is it raining? Is it cloudy? What will the weather be today? Have your child draw a picture of the sun if the day is sunny, raindrops if the day is rainy, and clouds if the sky is cloudy.

A Card of Love Collect pictures of favorite things and animals, plus some stickers, bits of lace, buttons, and other small craft items. You will also need some pieces of paper and glue. Make a Happy Birthday card for someone special, or a Get Well card. While making the card, talk about how special your friend or relative is. Help your child write a message. Address the card, stamp it, and mail it. This little kindness will bring much appreciation.

 Ages & Stages

36-42 months