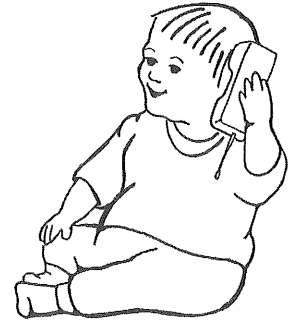




# Communication

Activities to Help Your Child Grow and Learn



Your child now enjoys longer books and stories. She can help tell a story or make up silly stories of her own. She probably asks “why” often, not only about books but also about daily events. She can describe recent events with some detail and with a little help can place the events in order. She may be reading familiar signs in the neighborhood and may know what words and letters are. She knows her first and last name and probably recognizes her name in print.

- Talking Book** Paste pictures that your child chooses, one per page, in an inexpensive notebook or on blank pages tied or stapled together. As you look through this picture book with your child, ask him to talk about the pictures. Say, “What’s going on here?” “What colors do you see?” “Is that doggie happy or sad?” See if your child can tell you two or three things about each picture.
- Say What You Can See** When you’re on the bus or in the car, look for things in a certain category, alive or in pictures. Choose the category ahead of time. You might say, “Let’s see how many animals we see while we’re riding.” Both you and your child can point out dogs and cats, as well as animals on posters, statues, and so forth. Try to find things with wheels or things that are tall. Let your child pick her own categories.
- My Own Stories** Your child can begin to make up stories of her own. You can encourage her to tell the stories by writing them down on a piece of paper as she tells them to you. She might like to draw or paint a picture to go along with the story. You can put these stories in a folder to make a book titled “My Own Stories.”
- Fill in the Blank** When reading familiar stories, leave a word out here or there, and pause to let your child fill in the word or even the sound: “Mama Duck said, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Do What I Do** Do a simple action, such as clapping your hands, and tell your child, “Do what I do.” Then, add a second motion such as patting your stomach. Have your child do it with you first, then by himself. Now add a third motion and see if your child can remember all three: clap, clap, pat, pat, wink, wink. Add more as long as your child can remember them and as long as you both are having fun.



42–48 months