

Healthy Toddler Development

SPEECH & LANGUAGE

By 18 months

- Tries to copy your sounds
- Uses at least 20-50 words consistently- words do not have to be clear
- Understands many more words than he can say
- Understands simple directions or questions
- Demonstrates some pretend play with toys
- Makes at least four consonant sounds from p, b, m, n, d, t, w, h
- May use common phrases such as “Oh no” and “All gone”.
- Uses gestures and simple words combined
- Points to familiar people and to some body parts when asked
- Understands the concepts of in and out, off and on

LITERACY & FINE MOTOR

By 18 months

- Able to carry books and hand them to reader
- Turns book right side up and turns pages well
- Points at pictures with one finger
- Identifies some pictures in a book
- Labels a picture with a specific sound
- Enjoys being read to and looking at books
- Pretends to read to stuffed animals
- Has a short attention span
- Recites some repeated words and phrases from well-known stories
- Stacks books, blocks and toys
- Holds a crayon or pencil in fist and scribbles
- Squeezes and pounds playdough
- Enjoys tickle, bounce and nursery rhymes
- Is curious and loves to explore and experiment

VISION & HEARING

12 months-2 years

- Moves eyes and hands together
- Judges depth e.g., climbs up and down stairs
- Links pictures with real life objects
- Follows objects as they move from above head to feet
- Turns toward you when you call their name from behind
- Follows simple commands
- Tries to ‘talk’ by pointing, reaching and making noises
- Knows sounds like a closing door and a ringing phone
- Listens to simple stories, rhymes, and sings
- Imitates sounds and words
- Looks at you when talking and playing together



If you have questions about your child's literacy and language skills contact Donna Kaye, an early literacy specialist - dkaye@familyspace.ca or 613-966-9427 Ext.270

Toddlers...

- who hear lots of lively interesting talk are more likely to develop a rich vocabulary.
- understand most words they hear but may not be able to label or describe what they see and do.
- may still be listening even when they are playing and moving about
- learn about reading through everyday experiences
- learn about books by handling them
- will ask for the same book to be read over and over again
- enjoy books they can interact with (lift flaps, turn pages, make animal sounds)
- like to imitate and have you copy what they say and do

How you can help:

- talk, read, sing and play with your toddler
- read a variety of books to your toddler
- talk to your child as you read
- let them touch and hold books
- point to and name pictures using real words, not 'babytalk'
- respond to your child's cues and clues
- build reading into all daily routines
- let your toddler use crayons and markers to scribble

Toddler's Property Law

If I like it, it's mine.
If it's in my hand, it's mine.
If I can take it from you, it's mine.
If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
If it looks like mine, it's mine.
If I saw it first, it's mine.
If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
If it's broken, it's yours.



The Terrific Toddler

Help your 18 month old toddler develop a love of learning and get ready for reading.

Encourage plenty of listening and talking as part of your daily activities.