

## By 18 months, your child should:

- understand the concepts of *in and out*, *off and on*
- point to several body parts when asked
- use at least 20 words consistently
- respond with words or gestures to simple questions- Where's Teddy?, What's that?
- demonstrate some pretend play with toys- gives teddy a drink, a bowl is a hat
- make at least four different consonant sounds - p, b, m, n, d, g, w, h
- enjoy being read to and looking at simple books with you
- point to pictures using one finger



If your toddler is having difficulty with any of the above, contact

**Preschool Speech and Language:**

613-969-7400 x 2264 (Bancroft 613-332-2825 x 6208)

You do not need a doctor's referral.



## Toddlers like it when you:

- ❖ Let them touch and hold books while you point to and name the pictures. Wait to see if your child shows an interest in something in the picture, and then talk about what you see and what the child finds interesting.
- ❖ Use fun words and fun sounds, like *whew*, *boom*, *yucky*, *bang*, *pop*, and *ummm*.
- ❖ Use real words instead of baby talk . *give me* instead of *ta ta*, or *bottle* not *baba*.
- ❖ Encourage and model pretend play, ie. blowing on a pretend cup of hot tea.
- ❖ Take the time to listen to your child . who wants you to hear all of their new sounds, words and ideas. Give a word for what they're trying to communicate.
- ❖ Give your child simple directions to follow . *Go find your rubber boots*.
- ❖ Offer your child a choice, so that he can send a specific message about something he'd like, for example, while holding up a banana and apple piece, say *Do you want some apple or banana?*
- ❖ Put objects in plastic containers and shake the containers. Then open and close the containers, taking things out and putting things in. As you do this, use words like in, out, more and shake. Fill containers with water and sand, and take turns dumping them out. Use lots of other different words like up/down, as well as action words like happy, big, little, clean, dirty.
- ❖ Play imitating games. Copy the sound of a cat meowing, or a bird chirping; or copy the action of clapping or jumping. Take turns banging on pots and pans.