

Communications, Language & Literacy Development



8 TO 21 MONTHS

Have continuous conversations with your toddler during routines such as diapering, eating, bathing, etc.

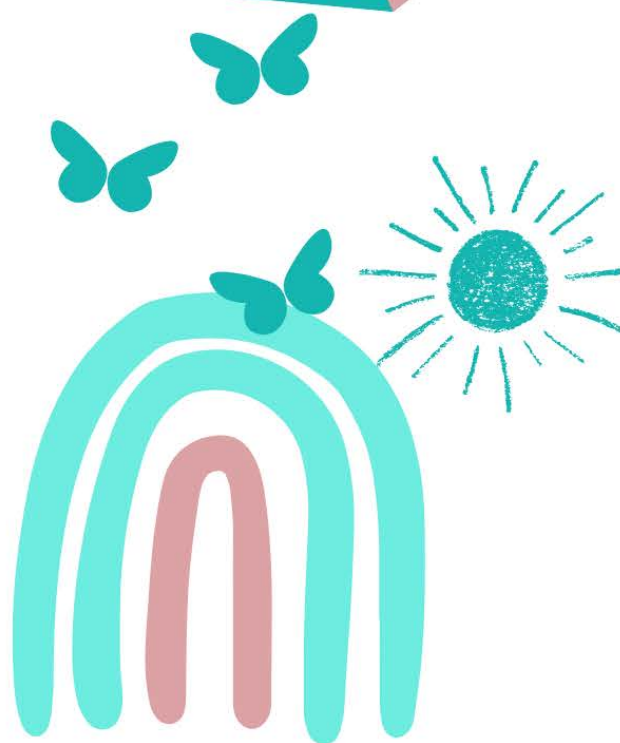
Allow time for toddlers to respond to conversations.

Sing songs frequently. Singing the same song over and over will provide for familiarity and eventually lead to your toddler remembering and singing the songs with you.

Read books with flaps.

Repeat what actions you or your toddler are doing such as “I am washing your hands.” or “You are putting that in the garbage.”

Point to objects and name them. Label objects when your toddler points to them.



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Mirror common actions in simple language such as “wash hands,” “sit down,” or “let’s eat.”

Engage in back-and-forth conversations as toddlers begin to use sounds and simple words.

Sing songs that rhyme like Twinkle Twinkle Little Star or I’m a Little Teapot.

Model holding a book correctly, point to the pages from left to right as you read, turn pages, and point out that “the end” is at the end of the book.

Ask questions about a book such as “Where is the ___?” or “Why does he look sad?” This allows for comparing the words you are saying to the pictures you are questioning.

Name animals and their sounds.

Let your child make marks on paper with assorted writing tools.

