

12 – 18 MONTHS

As babies become toddlers and they learn to walk, their world will expand. As they go for walks and explore the outside world they will discover many new things. Their independence will help introduce new words and concepts. Although they are not ready to say them yet, they will learn and understand new words each week during this time. The more encouragement they are given to listen and look at new objects around them, the better they will understand what they hear and the faster their language will develop.

Toddlers will more than likely have quite a few words in their expressive language by the end of this age period. They won't be able to put two words together yet but will use one word at a time to substitute a whole sentence. For example, they may say **more** to mean, *I want more biscuits* or **Bick** to mean *I want the bricks*.

Parents and teachers should keep in mind that no two children are alike and each child will develop at his/her own pace.

Children's language development is more likely to grow at a faster rate if experience and language stimulation are reinforced.



Activities

Bath Time



During bath time introduce words such as: **water, warm splash, wet, pour, bubbles, blow, gone, again, more, wash hands, face, feet etc.**

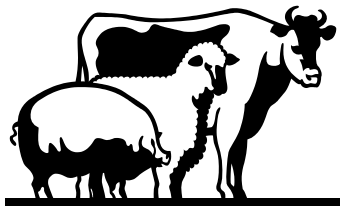
Give your child a jug and empty shampoo bottle with holes in it so they can watch the water flow through the holes. Blow bubbles and wait for your child to indicate when they want you to blow some more.

Playhouse



Find a large box. Cut a hole for a window and a hole for a door then let your child explore. This will provide the opportunity to talk about concepts such as **in, out, big, little, open, close, knock, where are you? there you are!**

Animal sounds



Toddlers love to hear the different sounds they make. Give your child toy animals to play with. Together you can make animal sounds as you play with the toys. This will encourage the important imitation skills. Use pictures of animals and ask your child to find the one that says moo, woof, baa, etc. then match the animal to the picture.

Activities

Reading Books



Use a book that has very clear and bold pictures. Ask your child questions such as **“Where’s the dog?”** and then wait for them to point to the picture. If they choose the wrong picture, guide their hand to the right picture and say, **“Here’s the dog!”** Always use a cheerful voice when correcting them so they don’t feel that they have got it wrong.

Getting Dressed



For toddlers getting dressed can be a difficult time. Getting dressed can provide a great opportunity to learn new words. Use this opportunity to name the clothes and body parts as you go along. You can also include words such as, **on, off, in, out, up, down**

Drawing



Toddlers love to create pictures. Tape a large piece of paper to the table and give them a large crayon or pencil. Use a separate piece of paper to show them how to make marks and then let them do it. Encourage them to use a variety of actions to create circles, lines and dots.

Activities

Objects Box



Toddlers love to explore things around them. They enjoy discovering objects when they are stored in a container. Place some objects (maybe 5 – 6 items), such as a ball, a brush and a spoon in a box. Then say to them **“Find the ball.”** Then when they have found the ball give them lots of praise and say, **“You found the ball.”** If they don’t find the right item then say, **“You found the here’s the ball.”** Put object to a separate box or bag, then look for the next item.

Alternatively, put a variety of objects in separate boxes and as your child opens each one, name the object and briefly do something appropriate with it.

E.g.: **“Oh! You’ve got a brush! Brush your hair. Brush my hair.”**